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Journal of Proceedings.



Sixteenth * Annual

* Encampment *

... of the ...

Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.



Held in

Indianapolis,

Indiana,

Sept. 9, 10, 11.

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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
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OFFICERS AND STAFF,
Commandery-in-Chief, 1897-1898.

Commander-in-Chief :

CHARLES K. DARLING, . . . Room 947 Tremont Building, Boston, Mass.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief :

GEORGE E. COGSHALL, . . . Grand Rapids, Mich.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief :

JAMES W. NOEL, . . . Indianapolis, Ind.

Council-in-Chief :

H. H. HAMMER, . . . Reading, Pa.

C. BORIN, . . . Oberlin, Kansas.

J. E. HAYCROFT, . . . Madelia, Minn.

Adjutant-General :

FRED E. BOLTON, . . . Room 947 Tremont Building, Boston, Mass.

Quartermaster-General :

R. LOEBENSTEIN, . . . 84 La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill.

Inspector-General :

J. F. DURSTON, . . . Syracuse, N. Y.

Judge-Advocate-General :

EDWARD K. GOULD, . . . Rockland, Me.

Surgeon-General :

LAN S. GARDNER, M. D., . . . Massillon, O.

Chaplain-in-Chief :

H. J. VEAZEY, . . . Harriman, Tenn.

X744625



JAMES LEWIS RAKE,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
1896-'97.

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JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

... OF THE ...

SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

... OF THE ...

SONS OF VETERANS,

» U. S. A. «

HELD IN

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA,

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH,

1897.

READING, PA.:
PRESS READING EAGLE,
1897.



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9th, 1897.

The Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., convened in the hall of the House of Representatives, State House, at 10 o'clock A. M., with Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake in command.

ENCAMPMENT CALLED TO ORDER.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The officers and members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., will now come to order.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the officers of this Encampment.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of officers and the following officers of the Commandery-in-Chief answered to their names:

Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley.
Adjutant-General, Horace H. Hammer.
Quartermaster-General, R. Loebenstein.
Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink.
Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond.
Surgeon-General, Dr. J. A. Mabbs.
Assistant Quartermaster-General, Fred E. Sanborn.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the roll of officers has been called. All the officers and staff are present with the exception of Chaplain-in-Chief Reverend Somerville Light.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I will appoint as acting Chaplain-in-Chief Past Commander W. J. Patton, of the Wisconsin Division.

Are there any honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors or marines of the War of 1861-65 present that have not been obligated? If so, they will rise and the Inspector-General will conduct them to the altar.

Comrade W. O. Pierce rose and was conducted to the altar by the Inspector-General and duly obligated by Past Commander-in-Chief George B. Abbott, of Illinois.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Inspector-General, you will examine those present and ascertain if all present are in possession of the semi-annual password and countersign, and if the Camp and Picket Guard are at their respective stations. The Surgeon General will assist on the left.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, on due inspection I find all the brothers present entitled to remain.

The Encampment was then opened in due form.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE C.-IN-C.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: At this point I will announce the appointment of Officer of the Day, Major Harry White, of Maryland; Officer of the Guard, Lieutenant George E. Coggeshall, of Michigan. The Officer of the Day will detail his Camp and Picket Guard for each session of this Commandery.

Now, by virtue of the authority in me vested, I hereby declare the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., duly opened for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it. The Camp Guard will admit all brothers qualified to enter.

LOCAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, Chairman: Commander and brothers, on behalf of the Local Committee, I wish to make an announcement, and I will consume but little of your time. I cannot forbear saying that I have been acquainted with this State House since the time that the State took possession of it from the contractors; I have looked into the faces of every General Assembly that has gathered here, and without trying to "jolly" you in the least, I will say that I am willing to compare this gathering of men with any gathering of the Indiana Legislature that has met in this hall during the past twelve years. (Applause).

I say that without fear of being accused of introducing anything of a partisan character on this occasion, because in that twelve years we have had three Legislatures that were of the Democratic persuasion, and three that were of the Republican persuasion, and consequently I am non-partisan myself in making that remark.

Now, brothers, it is the expectation of the Local Committee that you shall have an enjoyable time while in the City of Indianapolis. We have the assurance of the Mayor that if you want anything and do not see it, it will be given you for the asking; and if you see anything you want and cannot get it, call on him and he will help you take it; and at no time during the day or night will the town require the use of a "jimmy" in order to open it. This evening we expect to give in the parlors of the State House and corridors a reception to the visiting Sons of Veterans by the Governor and the State officers. The Governor of Indiana is a comrade of your fathers—was a comrade of your fathers, and a number of our State officers were also Union soldiers. They will extend to you to-night, on behalf of grand old Hoosierdom, a welcome in the parlors of the State House. We expect to provide music and light refreshments, and we hope that those of you who are inclined to enjoy yourselves by dancing, will feel perfectly at liberty to go down the corridors to the north, and to the south, and to the west, and on the second floor, or anywhere that the music may urge you, and enjoy yourselves in that way.

On Friday afternoon there will be a parade, the line of march for which will be published in the papers, and a more particular announcement as to which will be made to-morrow by Mr. McGrew, the marshal of the parade.

We expect on Friday evening to have a Camp-Fire in Tomlinson Hall. I am pleased to say that at that time we will be addressed by that illustrious son and citizen of the State of Nebraska, Honorable John M. Thurston (applause); by that citizen of Indiana whom you all know, and whom, doubtless, you have learned to love through reading that immortal book—Ben Hur—General Lew Wallace (applause); by all the brothers who aspire to be Commander-in-Chief of this organization during this ensuing year (applause); by Past Commanders-in-Chief Charles F. Griffin, George B. Abbott, Walter S. Payne and William E. Bundy; and I believe when that is over you will be satisfied that we have here in Indianapolis a galaxy of spell-binders who will entertain you to your heart's content.

I have tried to outline to you the entertainment we have provided. In addition, there has been provided for Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening a trolley ride through this beautiful city, a trip to Broad Ripple Park, and a steamboat excursion on White River; and we want to say that any member of this Commandery is at liberty to approach any member of the committee and inquire for anything or ask for anything that you think would add to the pleasure of your stay with us, and the committee will secure it for you if they have to knock the man down that has it. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I am perfectly sure that Brother Bookwalter's invitation is broad enough in every sense, excepting one. He has told us that we can inquire for and get with the assistance of his committee almost anything. He has told us that we can ring in the Mayor, who will help us take anything we want; but he has not said to us

that we are at liberty to help ourselves and take anything we want, regardless of the committee and the Mayor. I know there are some here, if they have not outlived their past reputation, who will come pretty near taking some of the marble columns of the State House unless a railing is put around them.

CHAIRMAN BOOKWALTER: I forgot, Commander, a part of the announcement which I was to make at the request of the illustrious brother from the State of New York. New York is always in evidence in conventions, especially of the political character, or character of this kind, and the illustrious brother from the State of New York asked me to say that this evening, on the Circle, immediately facing the Morton Monument, the members of the tribe of K. O. C. will gather, and they are going to have victims galore. (Applause and laughter).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members and the following brothers answered to their names:

Frank P. Merrill, Boston, Mass.
A. P. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.
Walter S. Payne, Fostoria, Ohio.
George B. Abbott, San Pedro Sula, Hond.
Charles F. Griffin, Hammond, Indiana.
William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, Ohio.
W. H. Russell, La Crosse, Kansas.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair will now announce the Committee on Credentials as follows:

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant General, *ex officio*.
H. E. Cowdin, of Michigan.
F. E. Bolton, of Massachusetts.
W. W. Bisby, of Iowa.
William DeSteele, of Wisconsin.

The Committee will meet at once with the Adjutant-General to prepare their report.

I desire to state at this time that we propose to present to you at this session the reports of the officers of the Commandery printed in pamphlet form. To-day is Thursday, and I am sure there is not present a single member who does not desire to get to his home or leave for his home this week. I believe the printing of these reports will greatly facilitate business. I shall endeavor in my rulings—I trust it may not be necessary to make any rulings—I trust that this Encampment will be so harmonious that its proceedings will redound to the credit of this organization, and that only the ordinary routine duties will be required of your presiding officer, but I promise to be absolutely fair, and to the utmost of my ability expedite the business that may come before us.

I would suggest that brothers, in addressing the Chair, announce their names and the Divisions to which they belong in order that the stenographer may duly accredit them.

COMRADE JOHN McELROY INTRODUCED.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief, I have the pleasure at this time of introducing Mr. John McElroy, editor of the *National Tribune*, of Washington, D. C. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers of the Encampment, I am sure that every one of you will agree with me when I say that you have this year made an ally that is a worthy ally of the Sons of Veterans. Mr. McElroy has been of valuable assistance to us, and we trust that in the future we may have the continued use of his columns. He will not charge you anything for the ad. either.

MR. JOHN McELROY: Commander-in-Chief, I have come here expressly to see my brothers. I desire to differ in one respect, sir, from what you have stated, and that is, that the Sons of Veterans have this year made me an ally. We have always been an ally of the Sons of Veterans. We were simply a little more active in well doing last year than in previous

years. Now, having started, I have a firm belief that the Sons of Veterans can be built up to a membership of one million strong. (Applause). I think it is very necessary, I think it is highly desirable, for the good of the country, that the Order of the Sons of Veterans should be built up to that strength, and for my part, and on the part of the *National Tribune*, of which I am a representative here, I say we are going to do all we can to aid you in your efforts to build it up to that strength. I thank you for your attention.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I will entertain a motion at this time for recess for a quarter of an hour in order that the Committee on Credentials may meet and prepare their report; or if there is no objection, I will simply declare a recess for fifteen minutes for that purpose. Is there objection?

There appears to be none and the Commandery will be at ease until called to order by the Chair.

(Eleven o'clock.)

Eleven o'clock and twenty minutes.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, attention.

THE CAMP GUARD: Commander-in-Chief, the Assistant Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana and other Grand Army Comrades are waiting in the ante-room.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the brothers will come to order we will use part of our recess by informally receiving the Assistant Adjutant-General and other members of the Grand Army Posts. The Camp Guard will admit them. I suggest that the Inspector-General escort them in.

The Assistant Adjutant-General of the G. A. R. and other comrades entered escorted by the Inspector-General.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I have the pleasure of introducing to the Encampment the Assistant Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana and other Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Comrades, I desire to say to you that there is no one more happy to meet the Veterans of War than the Sons of Veterans. I will ask you to be seated and enjoy our sessions with us. We have just been enjoying a recess and the Commandery may be at ease.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT INVITATION.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have a communication here from Captain Armstrong of the Local Committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Captain Armstrong has just delivered a letter from the Board of Regents of the State Soldiers and Sailors Monument which I take pleasure in laying before the Commandery.

The Adjutant read the communication from the Board of Regents as follows:

BOARD OF REGENTS
STATE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT.
ROOM 93, STATE CAPITOL.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

SIR:—You are authorized to inform the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans and Daughters of Veterans, now in session in this city, that all duly accredited visitors and delegates of both organizations will be admitted to the Indiana State Soldiers and Sailors Monument under the same conditions and regulations provided for the admission of Veteran Soldiers. Very respectfully,

FRED KNEFLER,

Pres't and Sup't Board of Regents S. S. and S. M.

CAPT. WM. H. ARMSTRONG.

Addressed.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand that, ordinarily, there is a fare of twenty-five cents for the use of the elevator to the top of the monument. Under the State law the veterans are charged but ten cents. The regents of the monument have kindly extended the same rate to the Sons of Veterans and the members of the Ladies' Aid Society assembled. I am sure we are obliged to them.

Captain Armstrong corrects me and says that the charge is fifteen cents for the elevator and ten cents for the stairway.

The Chair is informed that the Committee on Credentials is not yet ready to report and the Commandery will continue at recess.

Twelve o'clock M.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. The Committee on Credentials is now prepared to report. Give attention to the report of the Committee on Credentials.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I suppose it will not be necessary to call again the names of Staff Officers, Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That will not be necessary. I would suggest that brothers answer as their names are read off by the Adjutant-General.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Your Committee on Credentials herewith beg leave to present to your honorable body a list or report showing the following named brothers entitled to voice and vote in this the Sixteenth (16th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief as duly reported by the various Division Commanders and Adjutants, under seal of their respective Divisions, on Form No. 50, to the Adjutant-General, as required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General (Chairman),
H. E. COWDIN, Michigan,
W. W. BISBY, Iowa,
FRED BOLTON, Massachusetts,
W. DESTESE,

Committee on Credentials.

Commander-in-Chief—James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief—Leo W. Kennedy, Denver, Col.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief—R. M. Buckley, Louisville, Ky.
Adjutant-General—Horace H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.
Quartermaster-General—R. Loebenstein, Chicago, Ill.
Inspector-General—Arthur B. Spink, Providence, R. I.
Judge Advocate-General—John Redmond, Burlington, Kan.
Surgeon-General—Dr. J. A. Mabbs, Holland, Mich.
Chaplain-in-Chief—Rev. Somerville Light, Bluffton, Ind.
Assistant Adjutant-General—Charles E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa.
Assistant Quartermaster-General—Fred E. Sanborn, Chicago, Ill. (no vote).

PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.

FRANK P. MERRILL, Boston, Massachusetts.
A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE W. MARKS, Brooklyn, New York.
WALTER S. PAYNE, Fostoria, Ohio.
LOUIS M. WAGNER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE B. ABBOTT, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, Hammond, Indiana.
GEORGE T. BROWN, Brooklyn, New York.
EDWIN EARP, Lynn, Massachusetts.
BARTOW S. WEEKS, New York, New York.
MARVIN E. HALL, Hillsdale, Michigan.
JOSEPH B. MACCABE, East Boston, Massachusetts.
WILLIAM E. BUNDY, Cincinnati, Ohio.
W. H. RUSSELL, La Crosse, Kansas.

PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDERS.

FRANK H. CHALLIS, Manchester, New Hampshire.
 I. S. BANGS, Waterville, Maine.
 W. E. W. ROSS, Baltimore, Maryland.
 RAPHAEL TOBIAS, New York, New York.
 A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
 WALTER S. PAYNE, Fostoria, Ohio.
 R. M. J. REED, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 CHARLES S. CRYSLER, Independence, Missouri.
 E. HOWARD GILKEY, Columbus, Ohio.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS.

W. E. W. ROSS, Baltimore, Maryland.
 I. S. BANGS, Waterville, Maine.
 J. A. RODRIGO, Newark, New Jersey.
 WILLIAM H. PIERPONT, New Haven, Connecticut.
 JOHN A. THOMPSON, Baltimore, Maryland.
 A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
 W. S. ELDRIDGE, Portland, Maine.
 R. M. J. REED, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 R. M. LINTON, Somerset, Pennsylvania.
 O. B. BROWN, Dayton, Ohio.
 JOHN E. MILLS, Bradford, Massachusetts.
 WILLIAM LUTHER DAVIS, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Commander—L. W. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.
 Past Commanders—M. D. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.; R. W. Biese, Chattanooga, Tenn.; W. R. Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.; W. D. Good, Greenville, Tenn.; H. L. Veazey, Harriman, Tenn.; V. Gilb, Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; J. W. V. R. Plummer, Key West, Fla.; J. G. Crumbliss, Kingston, Tenn.; E. R. Carter, Knoxville, Tenn.
 Delegate-at-Large—H. T. Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.
 Alternate-at-Large—Frank G. Harrell, Greeneville, Tenn.
 Delegate—J. J. Straub, Nashville, Tenn.
 Alternate—H. L. Hanna, Sardis, Tenn.

CALIFORNIA.

Commander—Chas. L. Piercc, San Francisco, Cal.
 Past Commanders—L. DeP. Callahan, Los Angeles, Cal.; C. J. Callahan, Los Angeles, Cal.; E. C. Robinson, Oakland, Cal.; E. W. Conant, San Jose, Cal.; Fred W. Wood, Oakland, Cal.; S. L. Blodgett, Bakersfield, Cal.; F. W. Bunnell, Los Angeles, Cal.; F. C. Shipley, Oakland, Cal.; Chas. C. Houck, Santa Cruz, Cal.
 Delegate-at-Large—A. H. Johnson, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—Harry E. Pratt, Lamanda, Cal.
 Delegate—G. S. Walker, Los Gatos, Cal.
 Alternate—H. E. Houck, Santa Cruz, Cal.

COLORADO.

Commander—Harlan Thomas, Denver, Col.
 Past Commanders—F. C. McArthur, Denver, Col.; H. D. Kendig, Denver, Col.; L. W. Kennedy, Denver, Col.; C. H. Anderson, Denver, Col.; Geo. H. Frye, New Windsor, Col.; Adam C. Patton, Greeley, Col.; Claude H. Clark, Greeley, Col.
 Delegate-at-Large—George L. Hodges, Denver, Col.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. R. Haff, Cripple Creek, Col.
 Delegate—Frank L. Hoadley, Denver, Col.
 Alternate—Paul H. Limbach, Denver, Col.

CONNECTICUT.

Commander—W. W. Wheeler, Derby, Conn.
 Past Commanders—W. H. Pierpont, New Haven, Conn.; G. B. Smith, Hartford, Conn.; H. W. Wessels, Litchfield, Conn.; A. E. Chandler, Norwich, Conn.; B. R. Singleton, Waterbury, Conn.; F. S. Valentine, Derby, Conn.; W. H. Barber, Meriden, Conn.; Geo. E. Cox, Hartford, Conn.; W. J. Bissells, Litchfield, Conn.
 Delegate-at-Large—Fred G. Pool, Mystic, Conn.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. C. Booth, Bridgeport, Conn.
 Delegates—W. G. Braley, New Haven, Conn.; E. J. San Souci, Hartford, Conn.
 Alternates—F. C. Buntin, Stanford, Conn.; C. M. Murphy, Manchester, Conn.

GULF.

Commander—H. W. Robinson, New Orleans, La.
 Past Commanders—Josiah Gross, New Orleans, La.; George H. Tinker, New Orleans, La.
 Delegate-at-Large—Henry R. Wilson, New Orleans, La.
 Alternate-at-Large—Charles L. Ford, New Orleans, La.
 Delegate—William C. Wright, New Orleans, La.
 Alternate—Eugene Vandegriff, New Orleans, La.
 Indebted for supplies and not entitled to representation until said indebtedness is paid.

ILLINOIS.

Commander—C. R. Clark, Rockford, Ill.
 Past Commanders—R. V. Mallory, Decatur, Ill.; F. McCrillis, New York, N. Y.; Geo. B. Stadden, St. Louis, Mo.; Geo. H. Hurlbut, Belvidere, Ill.; C. G. Marsh, Oak Park, Ill.; Jno. D. Hall, Peoria, Ill.; F. L. Shepard, Chicago, Ill.; Wm. G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.; E. A. Wells, Murphysboro, Ill.; John R. Neeley, Wilmette, Ill.; C. T. Orner, Bloomington, Ill.; S. E. Thomasson, Chicago, Ill.
 Delegate-at-Large—George B. Holmes, Fernwood, Ill.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegates—M. N. Baldwin, Princeton, Ill.; W. T. Church, Chicago, Ill.; C. T. Spackman, Belvidere, Ill.
 Alternates—
 E. T. Roe, reported as Past Division Commander, is not found to be such.

INDIANA.

Commander—R. S. Thompson, Rising Sun, Ind.
 Past Commanders—J. W. Newton, Winchester, Ind.; George C. Harvey, Danville, Ind.; Newton J. McGuire, Indianapolis, Ind.; Frank Martin, Indianapolis, Ind.; R. B. Oglesbee, Plymouth, Ind.; Jno. E. Edmonson, Bloomington, Ind.; Wm. H. Armstrong, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Delegate-at-Large—Horace C. Stillwell, Anderson, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—Lee M. Kendall, Plymouth, Ind.
 Delegates—J. G. Leffler, Muncie, Ind.; W. H. Case, Marion, Ind.; Ira W. Christian, Noblesville, Ind.
 Substitutes—James W. Noel; Chas. A. Bookwalter, Indianapolis, Ind.; Geo. E. Retter, Farmland, Ind.; Frank Graham, Bloomington, Ind.
 Alternates—R. A. Brown, Kokomo, Ind.; H. H. Weaver, Pittsboro, Ind.; O. J. Chandler, Warsaw, Ind.

IOWA.

Commander—A. T. Wilson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 Past Commanders—J. D. Rowen, Des Moines, Iowa; L. A. Dilley, Davenport, Iowa; A. L. Sorter, Jr., Mason City, Iowa; H. M. Hanson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; E. E. Hawkes, Keokuk, Iowa; John H. Pickett, Oskaloosa, Iowa.
 Delegate-at-Large—James E. Whipple, Vinton, Iowa.
 Alternate-at-Large—J. E. Craig, Keokuk, Iowa.
 Delegates—W. W. Bisby, Des Moines, Iowa; R. Shaw Van, Denison, Iowa; H. C. Ring, Center Point, Iowa.

Substitutes—Henry Speelman, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; E. C. Weintgartner, Davenport, Iowa, substituted for Delegate-at-Large Whipple,
 Alternates—A. D. Bunger, Des Moines, Iowa; H. H. Canfield, Boone, Iowa;
 F. M. Sutton, Marshalltown, Iowa.

KANSAS.

Commander—W. P. Feder, Great Bend, Kan.
 Past Commanders—C. D. Jones, Norton, Kan.; E. H. Madison, Dodge City, Kan.; W. Y. Morgan, Hutchinson, Kan.; H. W. Huffman, Emporia, Kan.; Grant W. Harrington, Hiawatha, Kan.; C. S. Nation, Chanute, Kan.
 Delegate-at-Large—Tracy Larnard, Lawrence, Kan.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. P. Wilcox, Emporia, Kan.
 Delegates—C. S. Denison, Erie, Kan.; J. L. Papes, Wichita, Kan.; N. D. Sanders, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Alternates—L. A. Wiles, Erie, Kan.; E. E. Beard, Wichita, Kan.; M. M. Jones, Fort Scott, Kan.

KENTUCKY.

Commander—T. Z. Morrow, Jr., Somerset, Ken.
 Past Commanders—George H. Capito, Louisville, Ken.; W. R. Heflin, Maysville, Ken.; W. N. Evans, Augusta, Ken.; Will A. Field, Augusta, Ken.; B. F. McClelland, Louisville, Ken.
 Delegate-at-Large—Thomas T. Fogle, New Albany, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—A. T. Brown, Penicks Station, Ken.
 Delegate—J. Sherman Steeley, Williamsburg, Ken.
 Alternate—Joseph F. Biggs, Louisville, Ken.

MAINE.

Commander—Arthur L. Soule, Portland, Me.
 Past Commanders—A. S. Libby, Portland, Me.; Charles H. Rice, Bangor, Me.; E. K. Gould, Rockland, Me.; T. G. Libby, Vinalhaven, Me.; W. H. Perry, Portland, Me.; C. F. Hutchins, Bangor, Me.; A. C. Cloudman, Cumberland Mills, Me.; E. C. Moran, Rockland, Me.; C. E. Merrill, Auburn, Me.; R. L. Whitcomb, Portland, Me.; H. C. Chatto, Rockland, Me.; L. L. Cooper, Augusta, Me.
 Delegate-at-Large—William H. Looney, Portland, Me.
 Alternate-at-Large—H. M. Nickerson, Portland, Me.
 Delegates—George W. Gragg, Bath, Me.; R. A. Cony, Augusta, Me.; J. C. Colby, Waterville, Me.
 Alternates—J. W. Phinney, Westbrook, Me.; A. R. Newcomb, Old Town, Me.; H. M. Green, Yarmouth, Me.

MARYLAND.

Commander—Edward K. DePuy, Washington, D. C.
 Past Commanders—Miles W. Ross, Baltimore, Md.; Sherman J. Brown, Washington, D. C.; Robt. W. Wilson, Baltimore, Md.; E. R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.; Otto L. Suess, Washington, D. C.; Frank A. White, Easton, Md.; Frank O. Peterson, Baltimore, Md.
 Delegate-at-Large—W. Harry White, Easton, Md.
 Alternate-at-Large—Joseph T. White, Easton, Md.
 Delegate—Shelton T. Cameron, Washington, D. C.
 Substitute—Chas. S. Davis, Washington, D. C.
 Alternate—Howard Wilbur Ennis, Washington, D. C.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Commander—Orange H. Cook, Melrose, Mass.
 Past Commanders—F. J. Bradford, Lawrence, Mass.; J. B. Maccabe, East Boston, Mass.; C. F. Sargent, Lawrence, Mass.; H. S. Crossman, Springfield, Mass.; J. H. Hinkley, Beverly, Mass.; N. C. Upham, Fitchburg, Mass.; D. B. Purbeck, Salem, Mass.; C. K. Darling, Boston, Mass.; Wm. A. Stevens, Arlington, Mass.; W. H. Delano, Sharon, Mass.; A. C. Blaisdell, Lowell, Mass.; D. F. Goulding, Boston, Mass.; F. E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.; G. W. Knowlton, Arlington, Mass.; Harry D. Sisson, Pittsfield, Mass.

Delegate-at-Large—William R. Waterman, Hanover, Mass.
 Alternate-at-Large—Geo. B. McDavitt, Lynn, Mass.
 Delegates—O. S. Fish, Pittsfield, Mass.; A. A. Tilden, Arlington, Mass.;
 Thomas J. Hannon, Dedham, Mass.; C. F. O'Brein, Boston, Mass.; Walter
 H. Brown, Holyoke, Mass.; Henry E. Waugh, Whitman, Mass.; F.
 A. Filson, Waltham, Mass.; Edw. J. Green, Peabody, Mass.
 Alternates—C. D. Rooney, Winchester, Mass.; W. R. Davis, Cambridge,
 Mass.; L. C. Couch, Taunton, Mass.; H. E. Morse, Maplewood, Mass.;
 Benj. A. Harris, Arlington, Mass.; Edwin H. Lounsbury, Woburn, Mass.;
 Emery Coulter, Needham, Mass.; Howard G. Arnold, Pittsfield, Mass.

MICHIGAN.

Commander—H. E. Cowdin, Rockford, Mich.
 Past Commanders—Marvin E. Hall, Hillsdale, Mich.; F. M. Williams, Grand
 Rapids, Mich.; F. D. Eddy, Grand Rapids, Mich.; F. C. Stillson, Battle
 Creek, Mich.; Frank M. Gier, Hillsdale, Mich.; Fred M. Twiss, Hills-
 dale, Mich.; F. J. McMurtrie, Three Rivers, Mich.; E. R. Henderson,
 Hadley, Mich.
 Delegate-at-Large—Geo. E. Cogshall, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegates—H. O. Herrick, Battle Creek, Mich.; Geo. W. Davis, Tekonsha,
 Mich.
 Alternate—C. J. Post.

MINNESOTA.

Commander—Henry Stodieck, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Past Commanders—E. M. VanCleve, Minneapolis, Minn.; E. H. Milhan, St.
 Paul, Minn.; A. S. Morgan, Casselton, Minn.; E. D. Morris, Red Wing,
 Minn.; George F. Kelley, Tracy, Minn.; George H. Sheire, Evansville,
 Minn.; Francis G. Drew, Minneapolis, Minn.; C. E. McColley, Lisbon,
 Me.; I. C. Patterson, Princeton, Minn.; W. A. Mullen, Madelia, Minn.
 Delegate-at-Large—D. W. Bevers, St. Paul, Minn.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. O. Merriman, Howard Lake, Minn.
 Delegate—J. E. Haycraft, Madelia, Minn.
 Alternate—H. L. Mills, St. Paul, Minn.

MISSOURI.

Commander—E. E. Schoening, St. Louis, Mo.
 Past Commanders—J. J. Speaker, Kansas City, Mo.; A. H. Vandivert,
 Bethany, Mo.; E. R. Durham, Bethany, Mo.; R. Loebenstein, Chicago,
 Ill.; H. J. Kline, Chicago, Ill.; B. W. Frauenthal, St. Louis, Mo.; E. W.
 Raymond, St. Louis, Mo.; F. E. Ernst, St. Joseph, Mo.; E. L. Gott-
 schalk, St. Louis, Mo.; W. J. Zimmerschied, Sedalia, Mo.; W. K. West,
 Chicago, Ill.; Manly Wren, Bethany, Mo.
 Delegate-at-Large—Webster Davis, Washington, D. C.
 Alternate-at-Large—R. J. Ramer, Bethany, Mo.
 Substitute—Fred W. Miller, St. Louis, Mo.
 Delegates—E. J. Eakin, Cameron, Mo.; Samuel Loebenstein, Warrens-
 burg, Mo.
 Alternates—M. W. Bauer, Union, Mo.; George Eller, St. Louis, Mo.

NEBRASKA.

Commander—W. H. Davis, Wilber, Neb.
 Past Commanders—F. J. Coates, Washington, Neb.; F. P. Corrick, Cozad,
 Neb.; P. A. Barrows, St. Edward, Neb.; J. C. Elliott, West Point, Neb.;
 W. B. McArthur; F. E. Way, M. D., Wahoo, Neb.; Geo. F. Wolz,
 Fremont, Neb.
 Delegate-at-Large—J. M. Thurston, Omaha, Neb.
 Alternate-at-Large—A. H. Rawitzer, Omaha, Neb.
 Delegate—J. A. Collins, Fremont, Neb.
 Alternate—

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Commander—W. S. Willey, Somersworth, N. H.
 Past Commanders—F. H. Challis, Manchester, N. H.; F. E. Libby, Somersworth, N. H.; Michael Crowley, Charleston, Mass.; F. B. Perkins, Manchester, N. H.; Ben O. Robey, Nashua, N. H.; James H. Joyce, Somersworth, N. H.; Burt E. Fisher, Batavia, N. Y.; Frank C. Smith, Enfield, N. H.; C. H. Little, Manchester, N. H.; John H. Twombly, Dover, N. H.
 Delegate-at-Large—John W. Dufney, Somersworth, N. H.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. H. Bellows, Bennington, N. H.
 Delegate—Geo. B. Cook, Concord, N. H.
 Alternate—D. H. McLinn, Plymouth, N. H.

NEW JERSEY.

Commander—Jesse R. Dungan, Somerville, N. J.
 Past Commanders—Fred B. Morse, Elizabeth, N. J.; Andrew Derrom, New York, N. Y.; Geo. H. Perkins, Atlantic City, N. J.; T. H. Edmonds, Trenton, N. J.; A. L. Sparks, Camden, N. J.; Geo. W. Pollitt, Paterson, N. J.; Jas. E. Pierson, Hopewell, N. J.; James B. Adams, Atlantic City, N. J.; Lewis L. Drake, Elizabeth, N. J.
 Delegate-at-Large—James M. Mathews, Trenton, N. J.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. L. Vanderhoof, Somerville, N. J.
 Delegates—Howard B. Green, Penn Grove, N. J.; W. L. Vanderhoof, Elizabeth, N. J.; E. W. McCann, Atlantic City, N. J.
 Alternates—Isaac Magill, Paterson, N. J.; Halsey R. Brant, Philipsburg, N. J.

NEW YORK.

Cominader—John M. Diven, Elmira, N. Y.
 Past Comuanders—M. J. Downing, Brooklyn, N. Y.; E. W. Hatch, Buffalo, N. Y.; J. C. Sawyer, Matteawan, N. Y.; J. E. Hedges, New York, N. Y.; George Addington, Albany, N. Y.; W. H. Wyker, Goshen, N. Y.; A. Hofefling, Brooklyn, N. Y.; C. Holmes, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; W. S. Oberdorf, Danville, N. Y.; L. J. Macy, Pulaski, N. Y.; A. G. Courtney, Syracuse, N. Y.
 Delegate-at-Large—J. Frank Durston, Syracuse, N. Y.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. V. N. Stowell, Troy, N. Y.
 Delegates—J. W. Parkhurst, Pulaski, N. Y.; W. A. Personias, Waverly, N. Y.; W. D. Spear, Yonkers, N. Y.; E. C. Parkinson, Rochester, N. Y.; Charles E. Homan, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. H. Murphy, Brooklyn, N. Y.;
 Substitute—Russell B. Harrison, Terre Haute, Ind.
 Alternates—B. G. Seamans, Pulaski, N. Y.; N. P. Fredericks, Rochester, N. Y.; W. T. Severance, Albany, N. Y.; John V. B. Clarkson, New York, N. Y.; T. F. Maxwell, Troy, N. Y.; H. R. Liddle, Brooklyn, N. Y.

OHIO.

Commander—A. W. Jones, Youngstown, O.
 Past Commanders—E. H. Gilkey, Columbus, O.; H. R. Bacon, Toledo, O.; E. W. Poe, Columbus, O.; W. C. Wyckoff, Columbus, O.; F. W. Myers, Parkersburg, W. V.; Henry Frazee, Cleveland, O.; William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, O.; C. J. Deckman, Malvern, O.; J. V. Hilliard, Newark, O.; Fillmore Musser, Portsmouth, O.; Dan S. Gardner, Massillon, O.; Don C. Cable, Nelsonville, O.; L. V. Williams, Ripley, O.; D. Q. Morrow, Hillsboro, O.; George A. Ensign, Defiance, O.; George W. Leonard, Urbana, O.
 Delegate-at-Large—Jacob Wise, Massillon, O.
 Substitute—R. J. Williams, Cincinnati, O.
 Alternate-at-Large—F. W. Timmons, East Liverpool, O.
 Delegates—H. V. Speelman, Columbus, O.; O. Esgate, Akron, O.; A. S. Bickham, Dayton, O.; W. G. Thompson, Lebanon, O.; E. H. Archer, Columbus, O.
 Alternates—Charles T. Scheid, Fort Recovery, O.; W. D. Kittinger, Akron, O.; George T. Crawford, Columbus, O.; W. W. Pease, Cincinnati, O.; A. E. B. Stephens, Cleves, O.

OREGON.

No returns received.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Commander—Wildun Scott, Milton, Pa.

Past Commanders—J. H. Closson, Philadelphia, Pa.; R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.; E. W. Alexander, Reading, Pa.; W. H. Smith, Allentown, Pa.; H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.; A. K. Howard, Oil City, Pa.; J. H. Seiferth, Pittsburg, Pa.; H. M. Russell, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. J. Miller, Philadelphia, Pa.; G. P. Brockway, Oil City, Pa.; J. L. Rake, Reading, Pa.; W. B. McNulty, Philadelphia, Pa.; G. W. Gerhard, Hamburg, Pa.; H. M. Rebele, Allegheny, Pa.; L. M. Wagner, Philadelphia, Pa.; A. P. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.; Walter E. Smith, Allentown, Pa.; H. M. Lowry, Indiana, Pa.; Chas. L. John, Mt. Carmel, Pa.; C. E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa.; James H. Tawney, Philadelphia, Pa.

Delegate-at-Large—J. Spaulding, Towanda, Pa.

Alternate-at-Large—C. H. W. Schmidt, Philadelphia, Pa.

Delegates—O. L. Pancoast, Philadelphia, Pa.; T. C. Harter, Bloomsburg, Pa.; J. Culbertson, Allentown, Pa.; J. Q. Davis, Allegheny, Pa.; R. E. DeGross, Athens, Pa.; Geo. L. Martin, Philadelphia, Pa.; R. F. Schwartz, Shamokin, Pa.; G. M. Bostwick, Montrose, Pa.; Harry Louderbach, Philadelphia, Pa.; Wm. E. Sturges, Phoenixville, Pa.; Hugh M. Irvin, Curwensville, Pa.; J. R. Stryker, Williamsport, Pa.; Walter R. Ross, Philadelphia, Pa.

Alternates—W. J. Walton, Philadelphia, Pa.; W. O. Foster, Harrisburg, Pa.; Chester Lingle, M. Phillipsburg, Pa.; J. L. Salem, Hazleton, Pa.; E. P. Wolf, Berwick, Pa.; E. F. Allen, Altoona, Pa.; A. D. Roth, Lebanon, Pa.; Charles Hosmer, Athens, Pa.; D. P. Dinker, Pottstown, Pa.; George Forster, Philadelphia, Pa.; F. A. Godcharles, Milton, Pa.; Forrest W. Briggs, Shickshinny, Pa.; Paul Smyser, York, Pa.

Substitutes—W. U. Hall, Slatington, Pa.; Walter E. Duncan, Philadelphia, Pa.; Geo. J. Blum, Philadelphia, Pa.; Emil Poerstel, Jr.; Pittsburg, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND.

Commander—Chas. W. Abbot, Jr., Providence, R. I.

Past Commanders—Chas. S. West, Newport, R. I.; T. A. Barton, Providence, R. I.; T. M. Sweetland, Pawtucket, R. I.; Wm. M. P. Bowen, Providence, R. I.; R. H. Dexter, Pawtucket, R. I.; A. B. Spink, Providence, R. I.; H. S. Thompson, Providence, R. I.

Delegate-at-Large—Frederick B. Cole, Providence, R. I.

Alternate-at-Large—Henry D. Gifford, Pawtucket, R. I.

Delegate—Ernest L. Hackett, Providence, R. I.

Alternate—Alton L. Pierce, Pawtucket, R. I.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Commander—R. J. Courtney, Okobojo, S. D.

Past Commanders—L. D. Lyon, Watertown, S. D.; D. L. Printup, Britton, S. D.; Z. C. Green, White, S. D.; C. B. Cooke, Arlington, S. D.

Delegate-at-Large—W. D. Nelson, Pierre, S. D.

Alternate-at-Large—S. E. Tubbs, Henry, S. D.

Delegate—Geo. Reed, Arlington, S. D.

Alternate—C. M. Alexander, Watertown, S. D.

VERMONT.

Commander—William W. Lapoint, Barre, Vt.

Past Commanders—C. F. R. Jenne, Brattleboro, Vt.; G. E. Terrill, Underhill, Vt.; John E. Fox, Haverhill, Vt.; E. T. Griswold, Bennington, Vt.; H. O. Bixby, Chelsea, Vt.; George O. Webster, St. Albans, Vt.; William M. Sargent, South Royalton, Vt.; F. L. Green, St. Albans, Vt.; E. T. Monahan, Underhill, Vt.; Arthur I. Howe, Brattleboro, Vt.; H. S. Foster, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Delegate-at-Large—Glenn A. Wilkins, Underhill, Vt.

Alternate-at-Large—

Delegates—F. M. Crossby, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; F. E. Carlisle, Chester, Vt.

Alternates—

WASHINGTON.

Commander—Clark V. Savidge, Olympia, Wash.
 Past Commanders—B. W. Coiner, Tacoma, Wash.; E. W. Young, Seattle, Wash.; Harry Rosenhaupt, Spokane, Wash.; W. H. Fletcher, Tacoma, Wash.; W. L. Jones, North Yakima, Wash.; W. W. Sparks, Vancouver, Wash.; W. F. Locks, New Whatcom, Wash.
 Delegate-at-Large—W. E. Weigle, Vancouver, Wash.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegate—
 Alternate—

WEST VIRGINIA.

Commander—Harry W. Thurber, Wheeling, W. Va.
 Past Commanders—H. B. Baguely, Wheeling, W. Va.; G. Ed. Sylvis, Wheeling, W. Va.; W. H. Brand, Canton, W. Va.; R. F. Adams, Huntington, W. Va.
 Delegate-at-Large—H. S. McCune, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 Alternate-at-Large—C. F. P. Smith, Wick, W. Va.
 Delegate—J. R. Morris, Wheeling, W. Va.
 Alternate—Joseph Smith, Clarksburg, W. Va.

WISCONSIN.

Commander—Charles C. Townsend, Benton, Wis.
 Past Commanders—F. J. Walthers, Milwaukee, Wis.; J. P. Sheridan, East Saginaw, Mich.; C. H. Hudson, Madison, Wis.; H. S. Fuller, Milwaukee, Wis.; George W. Wing, Kewaunee, Wis.; R. L. McCormick, Hayward, Wis.; W. C. Winter, LaCrosse, Wis.; B. H. Wood, Hawthorne, Wis.; Thomas L. Jacobs, Neenah, Wis.; W. J. Patton, Green Bay, Wis.
 Delegate-at-Large—William DeSteele, Fon du Lac, Wis.
 Alternate-at-Large—J. W. T. Ames, New Richmond, Wis.
 Delegate—F. H. B. McDowell, Racine, Wis.
 Substitute—A. G. Braband, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Alternate—J. M. Gooding, Fon du Lac, Wis.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the committee submit this as a preliminary report. We have several matters before us which we will present in a supplemental report. In case any of the Divisions here reported entitled to representation should subsequently prove to be delinquent with reports due in the several departments, which we have reason to expect may be the case in some instances, the committee will come in and recall certain portions of this report.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that the report of the committee as submitted be adopted as the roll of this Encampment, and that the reading of the roll just finished be the first roll call of this Encampment.

WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the report just read be accepted, and that the roll as reported by the committee be the first roll call of this Encampment.

With your permission, brothers, I will divide the motion in order to give opportunity to any members present who have not answered to their names to do so at this time. Is there any objection to the division of the motion? There appears to be none. You will then first take action upon this as the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. Are you ready for the question?

OBJECTION TO THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of information. I want to know how the members of this committee satisfied themselves as to the continued membership of Past Colonels of the various

Divisions. I have heard perhaps one or two names called that, according to common report, have been dropped members of their Divisions. Of course I understand the committee accepts the credentials as they are handed in, and as authenticated by the Division Commander; but here is an open chance for Division Commanders, through ignorance of what may have passed, to make mistakes. Commanders are elected year after year; here is a long list of Past Commanders; they have been certified to and certified to year after year; and the present Commander does not know perhaps that in the years gone by some whose names are on this list of Past Commanders have become dropped members of the Order. Subsequently a Past Colonel, after having ceased for several years to be a member of the Order, sees fit to become a member again, and naturally desires his past perquisites and rights. Now, it has been at considerable expense and trouble that I have maintained my membership in this organization, not being a resident of the United States, and it seems to me a proper thing that this Encampment should inquire most particularly as to its membership; and I wish to inquire by what process the members of this committee informed itself as to the standing of these Past Division Commanders. I want to know what returns the committee has had, and how it can satisfy itself of the standing of a Past Colonel beyond the credential that may have been presented, authenticated by the present Division Commander. I regard this question as a very vital one with this Encampment. I feel we are the proper body to determine who shall have seats in this Encampment and who shall not, and that we should not delegate it to a Division Commander who may not be informed on the subject.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand, if I am correctly informed, the Committee on Credentials have based their report upon the certificate of election that is forwarded on Form 50 by the Division Commander, attested by the Adjutant, and in addition thereto a comparison of the Encampment roll with the credentials that are offered. For instance, the question raised this morning as to the status of a Past Commander whose name appears upon the roll of the last Encampment of this Commandery-in-Chief, but whose name is omitted from the roll of the Fourteenth Encampment. The committee did not at that time feel themselves at liberty to report such name as a member of this body. I understand that they have, in making this report, held open such cases for further investigation. I do not know the particular case to which Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott may refer, but it is certainly the duty of the members of this Encampment, if they know anything bearing upon such cases, to appear before the Credential Committee and there and then object to the reporting of such brothers as members of this Encampment.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, that is the point I wish to make. There is at this time a name on that roll to which I object. If this Encampment seeks to give this Past Colonel a seat in this body, what is the recourse of the person who may desire to be satisfied, or who believes conscientiously that such past officer is not entitled to a seat here? What is the recourse in this matter?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say, logically, if this committee reports him entitled to a seat here, and this Encampment accepts that report, it consequently seats him; that the objection should be made before the committee, or here before the acceptance of this report.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Then, Commander, I object to the acceptance of the report of this committee so far as some Past Colonels are concerned.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I would suggest that if there are any specific objections they be made now specifically, and then the rest of the roll can be adopted and the names that are objected to can be referred back to the committee for reconsideration.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is the force of my last suggestion. The intention is that we may have the preliminary report of the committee accepted, barring those names to which objection may be made; and

that the committee may take those cases up and thrash them out and make a report at some later time to this Encampment concerning them.

CASE OF PAST COL. G. P. BROCKWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, while I do not care to delay the convention—I presume the Commander knows that I do not—I simply wanted to know if I could go quietly to this committee and have a hearing, or if I should let it go by. I have no objection to stating specifically the name I object to in this report. I refer to Past Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania. I have been informed that he is a dropped member of the Order. That is the rumor. I am not responsible for the rumor. That is one name, and there was a name in another Division, I was informed, would be presented here that I am told is the name of a dropped member. I was spoken to at the time just as that was being read and I do not know whether it was read or not.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Do you desire to have that Division read again?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I will call for a re-reading of the report as to the Division of Iowa.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the Committee on Credentials covering the Division of Iowa will be read again.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: The name of G. P. Brockway appears upon the roll as a Past Colonel of the Division of Pennsylvania, certified to on the 26th day of June by ——— as Adjutant and Scott as Division Commander; received at headquarters on the 2d day of July.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Iowa.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, this Commandery-in-Chief has no further evidence than the certificate of the Division Commander. Now, who knows whether he has been a dropped member from the Order or not?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I think we understand that point. Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott calls for a re-reading of the names of Past Division Commanders reported by the Committee on Credentials as entitled to seats in this body from the Division of Iowa.

The Adjutant-General read the names of the Division Commanders reported from the Division of Iowa as follows:

Past Commander J. D. Rowen,
Past Commander L. A. Dilly,
Past Commander A. T. Wilson,
Past Commander A. L. Sorter,
Past Commander H. M. Hansen,
Past Commander E. E. Hawks,
Past Commander John H. Pickett.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I withdraw any objection to the report of the committee as to the Division of Iowa.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The objection to the report of the committee as to the Division of Iowa is withdrawn. The objection stands to the reporting of Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania. The committee will note that objection. The question before the Encampment is on the acceptance of this preliminary report of the Committee on Credentials, it being understood that the acceptance of the report is not to apply to the name of Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, if there is no objection I will incorporate that in my motion, that the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted with that exception.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The original motion now excepts Past Colonel Brockway's name in the Pennsylvania Division. The question is on the acceptance of the report of the committee, with the exceptions noted. Are you ready for the question?

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa: Commander, I rise to a point of privilege. I wish to ask Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott who on the list of the Iowa Division reported by the committee he objects to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair will inform Brother Wilson that the objection to the roll of Iowa was withdrawn. Past Commander Abbott said he was perfectly satisfied with the report, so far as the Iowa Division was concerned. All in favor of the motion as stated by the Chair will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. It is unanimously carried.

I will now put the second part of the motion, to adopt the report of the Committee on Credentials as the first roll call of this Encampment. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of the motion will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, I move that the following members of the Indiana delegation be at this and subsequent roll calls accredited as present, they being members of the Local Committee, and necessarily absent in performance of their duties on that committee: Past Commanders Martin, McGuire and Armstrong. As I said, I make this motion because they are on duty as members of the Local Committee, and cannot always be here, and I think it is only just that they should be accredited to the delegation of Indiana.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that a motion is not required. Their presence has been noted already at this roll call and without objection. They will be accredited present.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, will they be accredited present at each roll call?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that it is customary to so accredit the Local Committee. It is always customary to grant them that courtesy, and if there is no objection it will be done during this Encampment. There appears to be no objection and the members of the Local Committee will be accredited present.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The next business in order is the appointment of committees. The Chair will appoint the Standing Committees as follows:

ON CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

John Redmond, of Kansas.	
J. E. Haycraft, of Minnesota.	E. R. Campbell, of Maryland.
Dan S. Gardner, of Ohio.	Geo. E. Cox, of Connecticut.

ON RITUALS AND CEREMONIES.

Horace Stillwell, of Indiana.	
George F. Wolz, of Nebraska.	Harry D. Sisson, of Massachusetts.
W. S. Libby, of New Hampshire.	W. R. Heffron, of Kentucky.

ON RESOLUTIONS.

R. M. J. Reed, of Pennsylvania.	
M. Crowley, of New Hampshire.	H. W. Jones, of New York.
Wallace L. Vanderhoof, of New Jersey.	F. L. Sherpard, of Illinois.

ON OFFICERS' REPORTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF WORK.

Frank P. Merrill, of Massachusetts.	
George B. Abbott, of Illinois.	William E. Bundy, of Ohio.
W. S. Payne, of Ohio.	W. H. Russell, of Kansas.

If there is no objection we will follow the precedent of other Encampments and appoint at this time a Press Committee. Do I hear any objection? Assuming that there is none I will name as the members of such committee for this Encampment the following brothers :

PRESS COMMITTEE.

Frank Martin, Chairman; of Indiana.
C. D. Roney, of Massachusetts. J. D. Noel, of Indiana.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS.

Next in the order of business is the reception and reference of communications from Divisions to be called alphabetically. The Adjutant-General will call the roll and Divisions will present their communications.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, it is getting along towards one o'clock and I move we take recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I suggest that Brother Feder be kind enough to withdraw his motion for the present, long enough to permit the reception of these communications and the reference of the officers' reports to the proper committees. They are all printed and can be disposed of very speedily. Unless we get them in the hands of the committees we cannot get started with our work; but after they are referred we can then take recess until to-morrow morning, thus giving the committees time to consider them and be ready to report when we meet again.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, I will withdraw the motion.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of California was called :

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is a communication here by mail from the Division of California. It will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill, Chairman.

The Adjutant-General proceeded with the calling of the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of New Jersey was called :

WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Commander, New Jersey has a communication that it would like to present, but it is not ready yet.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Division may present it directly to the Committee on Distribution of Work at a later time.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll of Divisions.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Are there any Divisions who have failed to present communications under Item 7 who desire to do so? If so, now is the accepted time.

WILDUN SCOTT, of Pennsylvania: Commander, the Pennsylvania Division presents a communication.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the committee. Any others?

NEWTON J. MCGUIRE, of Indiana: Commander, Indiana presents a communication.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAMPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the committee. Are there any others? There appears to be none. Reception and reference of communications from Camps and individuals are next in order. I have communications here from individuals in Minnesota and Ohio which will go to the Committee on Distribution of Work.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: I have several here also.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They will go to the committee under the rule.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to give notice that probably the Division of Illinois will ask later to present a resolution on a subject interesting to this body.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They are at liberty to present it to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, and it will go through the regular channels without coming before the Encampment. Are there any further communications?

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following letters and telegrams:

BARRE, VT., Sept. 8, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, care Sons of Veterans Encampment, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Impossible to leave Vermont this week. The enemy are alarmed at growth of Order. Vermont boys coming. Best wishes to the brothers in '98. Our tremendous loss will be regained and more in the ranks.

WILLIAM W. LAPOINT,
Commander.

BALTIMORE, MD., Sept. 8, 1897.

National Encampment Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

James A. Garfield Camp, No. 1, extends greetings. Give us old Ritual, pure and simple. Our punishment is complete.

MILES W. ROSS,
ROBERT W. WILSON, } Committee.
FRANK O. PETERSON, }

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 9, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, Commander S. V., U. S. A., State House, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Barton, detained by ill health, extends greetings and distinguished considerations.

T. A. BARTON.

THREE RIVERS, MICH., Sept. 8, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in Encampment assembled:

Illness in my family makes my attendance this year an impossibility, a circumstance I deeply regret. I trust the Encampment will prove a most enthusiastic and enjoyable one, and that the legislative outcome may be especially beneficial to our Order at large. Believe me, yours in heart and soul,

FRED J. McMURTRIE,
Past Commander Michigan Div.

NASHVILLE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have received also the following communications concerning the Tennessee Centennial Exposition:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
NASHVILLE, TENN., September 1, 1897.

Sons of Veterans' National Encampment:

GENTLEMEN:—The Chamber of Commerce, of Nashville, Tennessee, together with other official bodies of this city, beg very respectfully to tender

herewith a most cordial and pressing invitation for your association, upon the adjournment of its convention, to visit our Centennial Exposition in a body. Our Exposition opens May 1st and continues for six months.

We can assure you a most hearty and cordial welcome, and will use all possible means to make your stay among us pleasant, and we feel sure that the recollections of your visit to Tennessee will be a matter of pleasure both to yourselves and the people of our city.

The many attractions and inducements that our State and city have to offer for the meeting here of the different organizations of the country in this our Centennial year are set forth in part in the accompanying circular. Side trips to any and all points of interest, the many battlefields, Hermitage, Lookout Mountain, celebrated stock farms, etc., can be made in a few hours' ride at greatly reduced rates. Many of the principal points can be reached without charge.

The lowest possible tariff of rates will be established by the railroads. Full information can be had from your railroad agents. This will place it within the province of all to visit our Exposition.

Trusting to have the presence of your association and its many friends in our city, we remain,

Yours respectfully,

NASHVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

By A. J. HARRIS, Pres.

A. W. WILLS, Sec.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

GENTLEMEN:—The Mayor of Nashville and the City Council, through its president, take great pleasure in endorsing the invitation extended by the Chamber of Commerce and others to your honorable body to visit Nashville during our Centennial year. We will see that you receive a most cordial, hearty greeting, and that your stay shall not only be pleasant but profitable to each of you. We will receive you with open arms.

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM M. MCCARTHY, Mayor.

NASHVILLE CITY COUNCIL,

By H. S. WILLIAMS, President.

THE AMERICAN, NASHVILLE, TENN.

DEAR SIRs:—As representatives of the daily press of Nashville, we join most cordially in inviting your association to visit our city. We will gladly publish all proceedings of your meetings, and will extend such other courtesies as are usually due from the press on such occasions.

The American,

By LELAND RANKIN, Pres.

The Banner,

By E. M. FOSTER, Bus. Mgr.

The Sun,

By S. C. CARMACK, Mgr.

STATE OF TENNESSEE.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, NASHVILLE.

DEAR SIRs:—It affords me unbounded pleasure to extend to your association and to the members of your convention a most cordial and pressing invitation to visit our Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

We feel proud of our beautiful white city--its unique, spacious and magnificent buildings, the beautiful grounds, its industrial features, the consummation of all that goes to make up a progressive city and State. It being State and interstate, national and international in its character, we feel as though a visit is not only due, but would prove of great interest and benefit to the members of your association. We assume that the United States as a whole, and particularly the South, will derive a great benefit from the wonderful achievement of our people, and we earnestly beg your presence and your co-operation. We invite you to attend and promise you true Southern hospitality.

Trusting you will accept this invitation, which comes from me as the representative of the entire people of the State of Tennessee, I remain, very respectfully yours,

ROBERT L. TAYLOR, Governor.

TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL
AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, NASHVILLE.

GENTLEMEN:—The Tennessee Centennial joins most heartily in the accompanying invitations and will be greatly pleased to have you visit our beautiful city in this our Centennial year.

We propose to hold, for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of the State of Tennessee into the Federal Union, a worthy industrial exposition.

On account of the many conventions to assemble in Nashville this year, we have been enabled to secure a very low transportation rate, as set forth in letter from Chamber of Commerce herewith, and we will have the necessary convention halls in which to hold any meetings you may desire furnished gratuitously.

We will also take pleasure in arranging excursions at greatly reduced rates, should you desire to visit Lookout Mountain, the many battlefields, Hermitage, Mammoth Cave and other noted places in this vicinity.

We deem it proper to state to you, however, that owing to the large number of associations which will visit us in the current year we cannot arrange for the entire management of entertainments, programs, etc., prepared for the different conventions, but will aid you all in our power, and have organized a special department for the purpose.

Trusting that you may decide to come to see us, we remain, yours very truly,

TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL.

By E. C. LEWIS, Director General.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the reading of these communications. Are there any others?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, is there nothing before the Encampment?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is not, unless the Adjutant-General has something further to present.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: After that, Commander, I would like to be heard a moment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: You have the floor, General Abbott. The Adjutant-General has nothing further to offer. You may proceed.

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, this is a little personal matter between the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General that I wish to refer to now. I have been absent from the United States for some time, but while I was Commander-in-Chief there occurred a great disturbance at the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division. A certain article belonging to headquarters had disappeared and unfortunately it

disappeared a short time before or after or during the visit of the Commander-in-Chief. Very properly, in looking after the property of the Division of Pennsylvania, the Colonel and Adjutant were exercised over the matter, and as reflection had been cast upon the Commander-in-Chief, he immediately appointed himself a committee of one to straighten out affairs and obtain for the Division of Pennsylvania its lost property. I have traveled a great many thousands of miles in search of it and have at last succeeded, and that is one of the reasons I am present at this Encampment--to return to the Division of Pennsylvania its lost property. I take great pleasure in delivering to the Commander-in-Chief the long-lost property of the Division of Pennsylvania.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I am sure I am voicing the sentiment of the Pennsylvania Division when I welcome back to the fold this long-lost article; but we have very grave doubts about the distance traveled by Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott in search of it. We do not claim any particular detective skill, but he has always had a guilty look since he left Pennsylvania at that time, and we knew his conscience would trouble him and that he would make restoration at some day. We don't want to say that you took it, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott, but without doing that we may say you were pretty close by when it was taken. We are much obliged to you, and this return at least indicates good intentions on your part.

I will now take occasion to make a suggestion to the Commandery-in-Chief, which I trust they will accept in the spirit with which it is offered. We have at very slight expense, that is, when we take into consideration the printing of the journal of the proceedings, had printed for the use of the Encampment the reports of the officers, and it is entirely unnecessary to hold the Encampment here for hours to hear the reading of the reports which the members of the Commandery can read so much better themselves at leisure. The committees have been appointed and are ready to go to work, and I ask permission of the Encampment to read the reports to the Commandery by title only, and then let them go direct to the committee in their printed form.

UNDER THE HEAD OF MEMBERSHIP.

In regard to the suggestions contained in my report I will explain that I do not claim them as original. They represent, rather, the consensus of opinion, the result of the replies to over three thousand letters and a number of conversations had with people eligible to our organization. The suggestions contained are offered to you merely as suggestions. I do not claim that they are going to solve the difficulty with this Order, but I place them before you for your consideration. This is the only place where we can cure any ill that exists in this organization, and I believe it is your duty to take up the question and solve it for yourselves. I have not attempted to go into detail in the question at all. I will request the Adjutant-General to read the several reports by title, in order that they may be properly referred.

The Adjutant-General read the reports by title, as follows:

REPORT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

The several reports read by title as above being in the words and figures following, to wit:

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—We are again permitted to meet to review the events of the past year and legislate for the future. Let us hope that our deliberations may bring increased prosperity to our beloved Order. In accounting to you for the administration of your affairs during the term now rapidly drawing to a close, and mindful of the fact that much of that which may have been desired remains undone, it is with a sense of consciousness of having endeavored with fidelity and impartiality to fulfill the honorable position to which you elected me at Louisville last year that I now return to you this precious charge.

HEADQUARTERS AND RECORDS.

Headquarters were established in Rooms 31-32, Second National Bank Building, Reading, Pa., on September 15, 1896, although the furniture and many of the official records did not reach us until nearly a month thereafter through having encountered a railroad wreck en route.

My bond was duly executed, submitted to and accepted by the Council-in-Chief. The Adjutant General's bond was promptly executed and accepted by me. The system of records contemplated by the C., R. and R., and so ably maintained by my illustrious predecessors, has been continued. A new Commission Record has been provided, as well as a standard blank covering the financial transactions between the Commander-in-Chief and the Quartermaster-General.

DECISIONS.

During the year 22 decisions have been rendered, the full text of which will be found annexed. A number of replies to inquiries for official interpretations of portions of the C., R. and R. are not here recorded, as the questions were in some cases fully covered in plain language by the particular sections referred to, or in other instances were readily answered by accepted decisions of Past Commanders-in-Chief, to which reference only was necessary. Many questions submitted to these headquarters should properly have been referred directly to Judge Advocates, who ordinarily are competent to pass upon the major portion of the inquiries, especially those covered by decisions already contained in the printed proceedings.

C., R. AND R.

The Order as at present constituted seems to be amply and well governed by the existing C., R. and R. without making any changes, thereby causing that confusion and dissatisfaction which constantly harassed Camp, Division and Commandery-in-Chief officers during the earlier years of our organization.

I would suggest, however, that a condensed historical sketch of the Order be prepared and added to the next edition of the C., R. and R. It should be brief and cover those points which are invariably inquired for and of necessity require explanation by circular or correspondence whenever a new Camp is forming.

THE BLUE BOOK.

It is not only desirable but imperative that we should have a well indexed codification of the decisions which have been rendered and accepted by this body, but in view of the cost connected with the work if published in the form of the now obsolete Blue Book this publication could doubtless be kept within our financial limits and serve all purposes if prepared and issued as an appendix to and part of the present edition of the C., R. and R., whereby an electrotyped plate or plates covering any subsequent

changes or additions could be prepared at comparatively small cost. I am under the impression that a committee was appointed by the Fourteenth Annual Encampment to codify and index the decisions for a new Blue Book, and it is possible that the results of their labors, at but slight additional expense, might be made available for this purpose.

RITUAL.

There is a difference of opinion as to the desirability and effectiveness of the present three-degree ritual, and whilst there is quite a decided expression in favor of a return to a single degree work, I am strongly convinced that we will never satisfactorily overcome the objections to our ritualistic forms until we adopt the suggestion, so strongly advanced at our last sessions, to entrust the task of preparing our ritual to some competent author specially versed and gifted in the production of work of this character. We must recognize, without in the least underrating the literary ability of the author of the present work, that the production of a successful ritual, embodying at once dramatic action with an attractive motive, effective, yet brief and easy of execution, calls for peculiar ability which we can scarcely expect to find if we entrust the work to a committee selected at random from the members of this body.

COURTS-MARTIAL.

Only three courts-martial proceedings were submitted to me for review and approval during the past year, a truly remarkable and gratifying record, clearly demonstrating that serious infractions of our laws are the exception. The proceedings were in each case referred to the Judge Advocate-General, and upon his recommendation approved.

BONDS OF DIVISION COMMANDERS.

The form for bonds of Division Commanders, prepared under the supervision of my predecessor, has now been in use sufficiently long to demonstrate its value. It has, up to this time, met all of the requirements, but to increase its efficiency, and acting in accord with Decision 28, of Past Commander-in-Chief Russell, I have had prepared by the Judge Advocate-General a blank form for the release of such bonds.

The bonds of the recently-elected Division Commanders have been approved and filed with the Quartermaster-General for all of the Divisions, Oregon alone excepted. This bond was returned for correction and will doubtless be properly executed and filed within the next few days.

DIVISIONS.

Our Divisions generally are in satisfactory condition, well officered by enthusiastic brothers who strive for excellence. One serious fault, however, is common to most all—slowness in making quarterly returns—to which the Adjutant-General makes more extended reference in his report. The fault, of course, is primarily with the Camps, and the delinquency from this source simply keeps on magnifying itself until it reaches the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters, resulting in the necessity for extended correspondence, consuming time and attention that should be more profitably given to matters for the general good of the organization at large. A reference to General Orders issued during the year will show plainly to what extent members of the Order have suffered through being compelled to wait for months for the promulgation of reports containing information which they rightly may expect within a reasonable time after the close of the quarter.

The Oregon Division has not been in a healthy or prosperous condition, due to the indifference and neglect of the recent Commander, who, in addition to allowing the routine work of his office to take care of itself, deliberately removed from the Division without proper leave. The Washington Division suffered similarly, although the trouble in this case was due to reported illness in the family of the then Commander. There is little excuse, however, to be offered by a Division officer for the failure to at least acknowledge official communications. Both of these Divisions, I am pleased to say, have elected Commanders who seem to be interested in their work, and to possess the ability and energy necessary to restore confidence, and bring these Divisions to a prosperous condition.

The C., R. and R. provides no penalty or form of discipline for derelictions on the part of Division Officers, other than a loss of representation in the Annual Encampments or the revocation of charter after failure for three quarters to make returns, penalties which, in my judgment, are inadequate, in that the Division, through neglect on the part of its officers, may be hopelessly wrecked before the remedy may be applied, and just so long as we fail to attach a penalty for neglect, so long will we have to endure the evils complained of.

COMMITTEES.

At the last sessions of the Commandery-in-Chief the spirit of economy asserted itself to such a marked extent that one would be led to suppose that our treasury had been irredeemably bankrupted, or that this body was made up of a class recruited from the millionaires of our land. Either of these suggestions might be conveyed from a reading of the printed proceedings, which disclose the fact that every special committee therein authorized was to serve "without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief." While advocating the strictest economy, it is to be hoped that we will not fall into similar error during the present sessions. If the proposed labors of a committee are of sufficient importance to the Order to warrant its existence it is no more than right that a reasonable sum should be set apart for such natural expenses as may be incurred.

The several committees specially authorized by the last Encampment were duly appointed and will doubtless be ready to make formal reports during the present session. I feel particularly grateful to the brothers who have served on these committees and have given their time and money for the benefit of the Order.

BENEFICIAL FEATURES.

Every year we find the question of incorporating beneficial features covering sickness and death being more strongly urged, and there are at this time quite a number of Camps that have adopted one or the other of the many plans presented to them, and in some cases Division organizations are moving in this direction. The success attending the introduction of these features has been varied, and must of necessity continue to be so until we shall either adopt some feasible plan as part of our fundamental laws, or entirely abandon all connection with the same.

RELATIONS WITH THE G. A. R.

Nothing has occurred during this administration to mar the uniformly pleasant relations which have existed between ourselves and the Grand Army of the Republic. Commander-in-Chief Clarkson and his associates have been ever ready to render us valuable aid, and through their direct efforts many of our weaker Camps have been strengthened and new Camps organized. The several Department Commanders and the Woman's Relief Corps have likewise shown great interest in our work, and to these veterans and their auxiliary do our thanks go out.

L. A. S.

I have always been of the opinion that our interest in the Ladies' Aid Society has been a more or less superficial one; not that we do not appreciate their work and the purposes for which they are organized, but there has never been that close relationship existing which would tend to prove the sincerity of our oft repeated words of encouragement—words, without active co-operation—which, properly bestowed, would strengthen their organization and in turn benefit our own Camps.

FINANCES.

Notwithstanding the fact that the revenue of the Commandery-in-Chief is derived mainly from per capita tax, which has remained stationary for a number of years as a unit against a steadily decreasing membership, I believe it would be poor policy to attempt to increase the same at this time. The comprehensive report of the Quartermaster-General will give you a very clear idea of our financial transactions during the past year.

MEMBERSHIP.

The most important matter that comes before us to-day is the question of our membership. Year after year your Commanders-in-Chief have brought to your notice this highly important subject, but up to this time little or no attention seems to have been paid to the warning notes so oft repeated. We cannot afford longer to temporize with this question. It is a duty we owe to ourselves to try to realize the condition which confronts us, and to set about to discover and apply the remedy.

We have all doubtless realized in a carelessly general way that our numerical strength is by no means proportionate to our opportunities, and possibly, that we have been unable apparently to check the annual decrease in our numbers, but how many of us have taken the trouble to analyze the figures to see what they actually do represent? To demonstrate how fearfully we have lost in membership it is only necessary to review the statistics covering a comparatively recent period. The Adjutant-General's consolidated reports show that in the June quarter of 1891 we carried upon our rolls 54,728 members in good standing. During the remaining quarters of 1891 we mustered 9,376 recruits. During 1892 we added 17,913 recruits; in 1893, 10,730; in 1894, 9,800; in 1895, 11,069; in 1896, 10,118, and in the March quarter of 1897, 2,573 recruits, a total of 71,679 new members mustered exclusive of gains from reinstatements, and which, with the membership accredited in good standing in the June quarter 1891 of 54,728 members, should enable us to show at this date something like 125,000 members. With the natural increase added for gains from reinstatements we might reasonably expect to have reached the 150,000 mark. As against this the Adjutant-General's consolidated report for the quarter ending March 30, 1897, shows a total membership in good standing of just 32,075. In other words, we have during the past six years added annually an average of nearly 12,000 new recruits, and notwithstanding this steady and quite respectable addition, we have been unable to check the unusual loss in our aggregate membership, for, citing again from the records, we find the following: Starting in June, 1891, with 54,728 members, we have accredited as enrolled in the March quarter of each of the succeeding years—1892, 54,479 members; 1893, 47,216 members; 1894, 39,625 members; 1895, 36,605 members; 1896, 34,964 members, and 1897, 32,075 members, a condition that is to say the least appalling.

I have endeavored in the limited time allotted to me to discover a cause for this lamentable condition, and with this in view I have embraced every opportunity to consult with the membership of our Order representing the different sections of our country, prominent members of the G. A. R., and citizens who have taken an interest in our organization on account of its patriotic aims, and I am forced to the conclusion that the chief source of the trouble is an inherent weakness due to our present form of constitution and operation, which only a reconstruction on different lines can remedy. I cannot reasonably be expected to place before you in detail a method by which we may strive to overcome the trouble, but I do hope to show you the imperative necessity for a careful consideration of the suggestions I shall present, which are the outcome of my inquiries, and which, if systematically undertaken and pursued, will, I believe, lead us to the desired result.

The numerous interviews and communications which I have had on this subject tend to show conclusively that the general adoption of the military feature as at present obtains with us is objectionable to the average citizen who is eligible to membership in our organization. There are, of course, those to whom the military feature is attractive, but I am firmly convinced that such is not the case with the great majority of those whom we desire to enroll as members in our organization. As a consequence we limit our membership to the few, comparatively speaking, and too often thereby lower the general standing of our Camp membership. There are many arguments to be advanced *pro* and *con*, but I can see no good reason why the question intelligently and fully submitted for serious consideration should not practically solve itself. As an exception to the statement just made, the success of the G. A. R. has been quoted to illustrate the correctness of our position on the military feature, but as has been so aptly remarked by a prominent member of that organization, to whom much of

our earlier success is due, they occupy a totally different position, their uniform of the period of their actual service fittingly represents deeds of valor, to which we cannot, with but few exceptions, lay claim. We have continued to experiment for a number of years on precisely the same lines as those upon which the Order was organized, and with results as above shown. There is nothing theoretical about the figures presented to you; they are facts, and we must meet them with intelligent and positive action if we are to hope to survive and attain the numerical strength necessary to place us in a position to be of actual service to the surviving veterans as enunciated in the principles and objects of our organization.

It is not my purpose in bringing this matter before you to adduce argument for the adoption of hasty legislation. The matter is too serious and involves too many issues to be quickly determined. My investigations, however, lead me to the sincere belief that our future success will lie in a complete revision of our fundamental laws whereby the Order, without in any way affecting the essential part of our constitution embracing the Title, Principles, Objects, Organization and Eligibility Clause as they at present exist, will become a great patriotic, civic body of importance. This suggestion would contemplate the abolition of the military and uniform features as we know them to-day, depending upon the adoption of a single standard button-hole decoration of neat and attractive design for general use, and the badge for public occasions, certain well defined patriotic holidays, and general Camp room purposes. For that minority who are eligible to membership in our organization, who take deep interest in military matters, provision could be made, empowering a Division Commander to issue a dispensation permitting a Camp to establish an armed and equipped body as soon as a Camp expressed its willingness and ability to so arm, equip and maintain a minimum company, battery or troop after the strict standard of the present U. S. Army regulations in connection with and directly under the control of the Camp. Such a body, armed, equipped and drilled after a recognized and uniform standard would in time become of positive value and command respect. Moreover, it would certainly remove the just grounds for the adverse criticisms to which the utter lack of uniformity incident to the present system has subjected the Order on occasions of all public appearances.

If such changes as are herein outlined shall be found to be desirable it would permit of the revision of many of our present blank forms and the omission of others, with the result that we could readily simplify the clerical work of the Order to an extent that would enable us to obtain efficiency in this direction. Much of the present system entailing upon the officers of Camps and Divisions the preparation of useless statistics could be avoided; the general returns could be less frequently made, saving to these branches of our organization considerable sums of money, and having a general tendency to secure capable officers who would be interested in their work. Either a revision of the work to a reasonable basis or an increase in the terms of office for Division and Commandery-in-Chief officers must follow if we are to expect any improvement from this source, since with our present cumbersome system many officers are but fairly started in their work when they are compelled to give way to their successors, who, in turn, simply encounter similar discouraging experiences.

The prescribed badges of the Order, of artistic and appropriate design, would not of necessity need revision, other than that the wearing of a multiplicity of badges is never desirable, and a simple law could be enacted permitting of the wearing of but one badge on all public occasions, or during the meetings of either of our bodies, letting it optional with past officers to wear a single badge denoting their highest rank, or any intermediate rank as their preference might be.

In view of the vital importance of this question I have omitted to make the customary recommendations covering other minor changes that have suggested themselves, in the hope that the wisdom and experience of the brothers here assembled may be confined to the consideration of this one grave question of our numerical strength, firmly believing that responsive action on your part will be the effective means of bringing the Order, in personnel and numbers, to that proud position which we of right ought to occupy, and at the same time be the incentive for the permanent establishment of a military feature that will be creditable to the organization.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

The officers and staff have been unremitting in their attention to the duties of their respective stations. The cordial relations which have characterized our official intercourse, and their uniform willingness to perform every duty assigned to them, cannot but leave the most pleasant memory of my official tenure of office. Truly it has been an official family without even the semblance of a "family jar," always ready and anxious to counsel and advise with one another for the best interests of the Order. Through the very nature of the position I was brought more closely into contact with the Quartermaster and Adjutant-Generals, and my unbounded admiration for these two worthy brothers, formed through friendship of many years' standing, has in no degree been lessened. Brother Loebenstein, through long service in his position, has acquired that experience which at once makes him a most valuable officer and a safe adviser. Brother Hammer brought to the office of Adjutant-General a thorough knowledge of the duties of the station through service in his Division for an almost uninterrupted period dating back to the formation of our Order. With a training embodying promptness in the discharge of the duties he has been called upon to perform no detail has escaped his watchful care. A loyal friend and ardent worker who in the daily routine of headquarters' work has made labor a pleasure.

And now, retiring from the high office to which you were pleased to elect me last year, and returning to assume my share of labor in the ranks once more, I desire to return my sincere thanks for the uniform kindness with which the loyal brothers throughout the Order have come to my assistance in the discharge of my official duties. May our deliberations, ripened with the experience of the past, lead our great Order in the patriotic work in which we are engaged to teach the young and old of every nationality, that, under the guidance of a Divine Providence, there shall be but one people and one flag in this land of liberty.

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

DECISIONS.

DECISION I. (J. A. Gen. Op. I.)

READING, PA., November 25, 1896.

Col. A. G. Courtney, Commander New York Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Syracuse, N. Y.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The question which you submit on appeal taken by Camp No. 26, from your decision, "Can a member who has been dropped by a Camp which afterwards ceased to exist be elected a member of the Order and mustered into another Camp without a dispensation?" has been duly considered.

The Judge Advocate-General is of the opinion, in which I concur, that a dropped member of a Camp which has ceased to exist cannot be mustered into another Camp until he has paid \$2.00 to the Commander-in-Chief or to the Division Commander, and a dispensation has been granted. Section 4 of Article IX, page 62, of the C., R. and R. is very plain on this point.

Your decision is sustained and the appeal is dismissed.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION II.

READING, PA., December 19, 1896.

Capt. Charles T. Sedgwick, Henry S. Cohn Camp, No. 5, Louisville, Ky.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of the 18th current, I am compelled to say that Article V of the C., R. and R. explicitly defines the eligibility to membership in our organization, and the axiomatic principle would follow, "*That what is not specifically permitted is prohibited.*" The question of honorary membership has previously been raised and has always been disposed of negatively.

I am quite sorry that I cannot hold out to you any hope in the direction you cite, but inviting your serious consideration of the subject I believe you will agree with me that such a step would establish a precedent that would in a little time entirely undo just what we strive to attain in our eligibility clause.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION III.

READING, PA., January 16, 1897.

Col. L. L. Cooper, Commander Maine Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Augusta, Me.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Replying to your favor of the 14th current, I would respectfully direct your attention to the C., R. and R., Camp Constitution, Article IV, Sections 2, 3, 4, pages 10, 11, which clearly govern the cases cited. If the two brothers in question did not avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from the provisions of our laws, to which reference is made, there is no way in which they can regain their honors as Past Captains, except through service in the Camps to which they are now attached. This question has been similarly ruled upon by nearly every Commander-in-Chief during the past five years. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION IV.

READING, PA., January 21, 1897.

Sherman Harvey, Captain-elect John Welton Camp, No. 96, Indiana Division, Monroe City, Ind.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—The Judge Advocate-General, Brother John Redmond, has referred to me your favor of 15th current, with request for an official decision on the question, "Can an honorably discharged Union soldier hold office in the Sons of Veterans when there are not enough members in the Camp to fill the offices?"

I can find no authority that will permit of an office in a Camp, Division or the Commandery-in-Chief being held by any other than a member of the Order. Any modification of our laws that would permit of an office being held by one not a member of the Order would at once nullify the eligibility clause—the very rock upon which we are founded, and I, therefore, hold it would be unconstitutional; further, that there is no authority by which even the Commander-in-Chief may grant a dispensation to permit of a violation of the Constitution. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION V.

READING, PA., February 2, 1897.

Col. J. B. Adams, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Atlantic City, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Herewith I return to you Form 16, in the matter of service record of Emile Tietze, enlisted June 30th, 1863, in Capt. James M. Bell's unattached Cavalry, Penna., and discharged therefrom August 9, 1863. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. The formal discharge returned to you with correspondence bearing upon this case, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, would seem to conclusively confirm the above return from the War Department.

Article V, Chapter 1, C., R. and R., in defining our eligibility clause, is explicit in that it bases proof of service upon a United States discharge. This particular portion of our law has never yet, to my knowledge, been questioned. On the contrary it is sustained by numerous decisions and opinions. See General Bundy's Decisions, VI, VII and X, proceedings Fourteenth Encampment, in which he cites prior decisions and opinions.

While I feel the deepest regret for the party concerned, until he can conclusively show that his father holds a discharge from the service of the United States, I must hold that he has been illegally mustered into our Order, and, as a natural consequence, the muster is null and void.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VI. (J. A. Gen. Op. II.)

READING, PA., February 15, 1897.

Col. D. Q. Morrow, Commander Ohio Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Hillsboro, O.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George Crute, of J. C. Fremont Camp, No. 177, are hereby returned.

A few irregularities appear. 1. The proper charge should have been "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." 2. The accused was not present, but was arraigned and pleaded guilty. 3. The statement of Al. Siler, who is not shown to be a member of the Order, is not sworn to. However, as the Judge Advocate-General tersely puts it, the service was good and the evidence of guilt is clear, and the findings and sentence of dishonorable discharge are hereby concurred in and approved, and you are directed to see that the same is carried into effect.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VII. (J. A. Gen. Op. III.)

READING, PA., March 15, 1897.

Col. William G. Dustin, Commander Illinois Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Dwight, Ill.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I return herewith proceedings in the court-martial of Brother John J. McCue, of Camp No. 87, together with his appeal from your decision.

The point as to whether he was legally removed from office does not enter into the charges, and the sentence being other than dishonorable discharge, the proceedings need not come to me for review. It would seem, however, that the proper remedy for Captain McCue after having been removed, would have been by an appeal from your order of removal, and not through the process of court-martial.

The evidence shows and the court found that he had disobeyed orders, and I am not inclined to disturb your order of removal.

The appeal from your order, irrespective of the court-martial proceedings, is dismissed and your decision will stand.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VIII.

READING, PA., March 15, 1897.

Col. W. F. Locke, Commander Washington Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., New Whatcom, Wash.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Acknowledging your favor of the 9th current with enclosure, it has been decided that the holder of a transfer is not entitled to the privileges of visiting Camps. (See Decision of General Bundy, XI, page 27, Proceedings Fourteenth Encampment), which became a law by the acceptance of the decision by that body.

The ground is covered so fully by the decision just cited that no further comment is necessary. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander in-Chief.

DECISION IX.

READING, PA., March 17, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbee, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind. :

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—To the general question which you submit, "A Past Captain of a Camp which was disbanded in June, 1894, and never reinstated, is given a transfer card by the Division Commander in February, 1897, he having been shown to be in good standing in his Camp at the time of its disbandment, and he immediately deposits his card in and becomes a member of another Camp. Is he now entitled to rank as a Past Captain?" I answer, no.

The life of a transfer card is clearly indicated by the C., R. and R., and if at the expiration of one year the holder has not availed himself of its privileges, and is, in consequence, considered as honorably discharged, it would seem to be only equitable that the power to grant a transfer after one year from the date of disbandment of a Camp should not be exercised.

It is true that Chapter II, Article IV, Section 4, distinctly says, "Members of disbanded Camps, who were in good standing at the time of such dissolution, shall receive from their Division Commander, etc., etc.," but certainly the intent of this language is that such transfers shall be issued at or about the time of the disbandment of the Camp. Should the Division Commander, through any neglect, fail to issue such transfers, members entitled to receive them would have their remedy. The very fact that a past officer had been content to rest without his rightful certificate of standing for a period of nearly three years would indicate that he had but little interest in his past rank. Fraternalty yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION X.

READING, PA., March 18, 1897.

R. J. Bosworth, Member Division Council, Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Answering your favor of the 17th instant, I must confess that the language of the C., R. and R., Chapter V, Article XII, Section 2, is somewhat ambiguous. There is an evident omission in that it does not specifically except the members of the respective Division Councils from the list of those to whom commissions shall be issued, and this omission has been recognized by the preceding administrations.

The C., R. and R. does not provide for any insignia of rank for a member of a Division Council, and it naturally follows that it was not the intention that these officers should be commissioned.

I do think, however, that some form of certificate, omitting rank, should be provided for these officers, and I will take occasion to so recommend to the next Encampment. Fraternalty yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XI.

READING, PA., March 19, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbee, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, in which you ask for an official decision as to (1) the effectiveness, and (2) the legality of certain resolutions *presented and favorably passed upon after the election of all officers and delegates* by the Encampment of the Indiana Division, held at Frankfort in July, 1896, it is not necessary at this time to discuss the intent of such resolution as covered by your first question. It only remains for us to consider the point embodied in your second question, which really becomes the vital one, "Was the resolution legally adopted?" I hold that it was not, and that it consequently falls. Clause 15, Order of Business, Chapter III, page 34, specifically cites the only exception to any transposition in the Order of Business. It stands as the

clearly expressed intention of the framers of this clause that the election and installation of officers shall be the final business of an Encampment.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XII.

READING, PA., March 31, 1897.

Col. Jesse R. Dungan, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Somerville, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Replying to your favor of the 30th current, in which you ask if a member can hold two commissions, I have to say that the contemporaneous holding of two commissioned offices has been repeatedly passed upon adversely.

See Decision XXXIX, page 39, Proceedings Fourteenth Annual Encampment, by General Bundy.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIII. (J. A. Gen. Op. IV.)

READING, PA., April 8, 1897.

Colonel James H. Tawney, Commander Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Philadelphia :

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—In the court-martial of Abraham L. Erdman, of Camp No. 13, convicted of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to dishonorable discharge, the record in the case is herewith returned to you.

The finding of the court is concurred in and approved, and you will at once proceed to carry the same into effect. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIV.

READING, PA., May 18, 1897.

O. H. Graves, Quartermaster Kansas Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Emporia, Kan.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Replying to your favor of 15th instant, wherein you ask the question, "Can an applicant be mustered the record of whose father's service is not to be obtained, excepting on the bare affidavit of his foster father, who is willing to certify to the fact that the applicant's father was in the army and was honorably discharged?"

I am compelled to answer in the negative. Chapter II, Article II, Section 1 of the C., R. and R., specifically covers the requirements, which cannot be dispensed.

It has always been held that an applicant must produce satisfactory evidence that his father was actually mustered into the service of the United States and was honorably discharged therefrom. (See Decision X, by General Bundy, proceedings Fourteenth Annual Encampment).

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XV.

READING, PA., May 27, 1897.

S. S. Mullen, Adjutant Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Replying to your inquiry of the 24th current for opinions on certain questions, I hold :

1. It is not necessary that the Picket Guard should approach the altar to make the salute each time he retires or re-enters for the purpose of admitting late comers ; the salute given from his station should answer every purpose.

2. When the Sergeant of the Guard retires to execute an order, and upon re-entering the Camp room, he should salute at the altar.

3. While it is true that certain of the charges to the recruit plainly inform him that he can be admitted to another Camp only when the Captain or Lieutenants of his own Camp are present to vouch for him, it must be evident that the intention of the framers of this language was other than it appears to us in type, since to comply with the same would practically prevent those visitations to other Camps, which become necessary and desirable.

4. I can find nothing in our C., R. and R. which would lead me to believe that a member can be compelled to wear a uniform in Camp. Nor can I understand how a Division Officer could be compelled to wear the uniform, although compulsion should not be necessary in the latter case. If the wearing of the uniform is obnoxious, the officer should resign if he cannot overcome his objections. It occurs to me, however, that the wearing of the uniform should have received consideration prior to the acceptance of office.

Faternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVI. (J. A. Gen. Op. V.)

READING, PA., May 31, 1897.

Col. Arthur I. Howe, Commander Vermont Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Brattleboro, Vt.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In response to your favor of 11th current, in which you raise the question, "Can a member of Division Council while off duty participate in the business of the Division?" I enclose to you herewith a copy of the Judge Advocate-General's Opinion V, in which he holds that a member of Division Council is not entitled to participate in the business of the Division while off duty on leave of absence, in which I concur.

Faternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVII.

READING, PA., June 14th, 1897.

Col. Edward E. DePuy, Commander Maryland Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In reply to your favor of the 10th inst., wherein you ask for official opinions on certain points, I have to say:

1. The dropped member is required to pay a sum equal to one year's dues, which is in addition to such fee for re-muster as the Camp which he joins by its By-Laws stipulates.

2. If a former member of a disbanded Camp (as contemplated by Decision XIII, by General Russell, which you cite) deposits his transfer within the period of its life, and before it lapses into an honorable discharge, he retains all past honors.

Faternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVIII.

READING, PA., July 6th, 1897.

Col. S. S. Schoening, Commander Missouri Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., St. Louis, Mo.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of 1st current, covering resolution passed by the Thirteenth Annual Encampment of your Division, requesting ruling defining the proper Salute of the Flag for Camps, it is clear that the form of salute prescribed for the Commandery-in-Chief and Division Encampments on page 93 of the Ritual, is intentionally different from that intended for Camps as contained in the Ritual on last line, page 8, which is clearly intended to cover the Cap Salute only, and which should be used by Camps. There is nothing, however, to prevent the representatives of your Division from formally bringing this question before the Commandery-in-Chief for consideration, through the proper committee, at its next Encampment.

Faternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIX. (J. A. Gen. Op. VI.)

READING, PA., August 3, 1897.

John Vogt, Past Captain Hays Camp, No. 4, Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Pittsburg, Pa.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I am in receipt of your appeal, through Division Commander Scott, from the decision of the Division Commander and the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, held at Towanda, June 8-9, 1897.

Your appeal is based on the paragraph in the articles of agreement entered into between the then Eastern and Western Divisions of Pennsylvania, and ratified by the Commandery-in-Chief at Buffalo in 1886 (proceedings Fifth Annual Encampment, page 60), reading as follows: "That the Colonel of the proposed Pennsylvania Division be not elected for more than two consecutive terms from the same section east or west of the meridian upon which Bellefonte is located, and that this resolution be in effect until repealed by a two-thirds vote of the proposed Pennsylvania Division Encampment." Your appeal also petitions that I shall declare the election of the Division Commander, Wildun Scott, in view of the above cited agreement, as void, and substitute in lieu thereof the name of Brother Emil Poerstel.

After having received the Judge Advocate-General's opinion, in which I concur, there does not seem to be any good reason for sustaining your appeal. On the contrary:

1. The C., R. and R. clearly empowers Divisions to elect their officers, and I can find no exception made in the case of the Pennsylvania Division, whereby the selection of a Division Commander shall be confined to any particular locality, and were the agreement upon which your appeal is based found to be of force and effect in other directions, it would be subject to grave doubt since it could not readily be held to supersede the provisions of the C., R. and R.

2. In 1888, or nearly two years after the ratification by the Commandery-in-Chief of the agreement upon which you base your appeal, the Pennsylvania Division assumed a provisional condition in consequence of Special Order No. 13 of Commander-in-Chief Abbott. The Division was reorganized on August 1, 1888, by the Encampment convened at Williamsport, Pa., under authority given by Special Order No. 14 of Commander-in-Chief Abbott, and has since had existence and is continuing to work under charter granted August 3, 1888. By this charter it is doubtless true that all agreements made prior to that time not specially excepted by the C., R. and R. were abrogated, and are no longer of force and effect.

3. The fact that the last four Division Commanders of the Pennsylvania Division were selected from territory originally in the old Eastern Division of Pennsylvania clearly indicates that the Division has considered the agreement in question null.

4. In case we should have found that Brother Scott was not the legally elected Division Commander, Brother Poerstel, not having received a majority of the votes cast, would still have no claim to the office, and a new election would of necessity follow.

The appeal is, therefore, dismissed.

Yours fraternally,
J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XX. (J. A. Gen. Op. VII.)

READING, PA., August 5, 1897.

Col. A. T. Wilson, Commander Iowa Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I return to you herewith proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George E. Marsh, Camp No. 211, your Division, convicted of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to dishonorable discharge.

The proceedings appear to be regular, and upon the recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General I have approved of the findings and sen-

tence, and you are hereby directed to have the same carried into effect at once.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XXI. (J. A. Gen. Op. VIII.)

READING, PA., August 5, 1897.

Fred. E. Ernst, Past Commander Missouri Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., St. Joseph, Mo.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Delay in replying to your favor of the 14th ultimo is due through the postal department in consequence of the change of address of the Judge Advocate-General, to whom the question had been submitted for an opinion.

You inquire on behalf of Camp No. 17: "When does a recruit become a member, and when shall the Camp commence charging dues?"

The Judge Advocate-General is of the opinion, in which I concur, that a recruit becomes a member of the Order when he has received the three degrees, as provided in the Ritual. Dues cannot be charged or collected until the three degrees have been conferred.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XXII.

READING, PA., August 10, 1897.

Capt. E. V. Bonstein, Camp No. 233, Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Easton, Pa.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I am in receipt, through Division Commander Scott, of the resolution addressed to me by your Camp, under date of 23d ultimo, appealing from Commander Scott's action in the appointment of his Adjutant, owing to his residence, and protesting against the removal from the Quartermaster's department in Philadelphia, of any of the furniture, books, papers, blank forms, etc., basing your appeal on the action of the Pennsylvania Encampment, at Gettysburg, June 3, 1896, covered by the report of the committee on Officers' Reports (page 35 printed proceedings), as follows: "We suggest to the Encampment the advisability at this time of taking advantage of the constitutional privilege of electing a Quartermaster for a term of three years, and placing Division Headquarters at a point agreeable to such election. * * * Carried."

I must confess that I cannot find any valid ground upon which you base this appeal, inasmuch as Commander Scott has not in any way violated either the C. R. and R., or the will of the Pennsylvania Division as expressed in the above cited legislation. On the other hand, there are forcible reasons why the appeal should not stand, among which are:

1. The Division in enacting the afore cited legislation simply took advantage of the constitutional privilege accorded them to elect a Quartermaster for a term of years, and at the same time decided to locate headquarters at a point agreeable to said selection, which has been done, and I do not find that Commander Scott has in any way attempted to interfere with the rights of the elected Quartermaster, nor has he attempted to remove the headquarters of the Quartermaster from Philadelphia, where they have been located.

2. Article IV, Section 5, page 27, of the C. R. and R., clearly empowers the Division Commander to appoint certain officers, among others the Adjutant, without any restriction as to the place of residence of that officer, and any action by a Division Encampment in confliction with the C. R. and R. would be void and without effect.

3. That the Division Commander's power to appoint an Adjutant from any locality within the Division is unquestioned goes without saying, and if added strength were needed to this argument, I might cite his further right under certain circumstances to appoint acting Adjutants, clearly indicating the scope of his power in this direction.

4. The Division Commander has no right, under conditions now being considered, to remove from the headquarters of the Quartermaster any of the books, papers, blanks, etc., belonging to the department of that officer, at least so long as the officer in question is not under discipline; he has,

however, the undoubted right to establish his own headquarters, as well as those of his Adjutant, where best the business of the Division can be looked after, and likewise is he entitled to remove to such headquarters all of the books, papers, blanks and appurtenances belonging to the respective departments of the Division Commander and Adjutant.

5. The present condition of the Pennsylvania Division is in this respect analogous to that of the Commandery-in-Chief; the latter has elected a Quartermaster-General for a term of years, and located headquarters at Chicago, still the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General, with the books and blanks belonging to the same, is migratory.

The appeal is dismissed. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
DENVER, COLO., August 9th, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Agreeable to a custom adopted by former Encampments, I desire to submit a report as Senior Vice Commander in-Chief. At no time during the past year has it been necessary for me to assume command of this grand patriotic Order. Providence has blessed our Commander-in-Chief with health and strength to properly and efficiently perform the duties of his office, and by this Divine guidance and care, we, as an organization, have been conducted safely through these troublous times. The national presidential election of last year and the exceeding financial and commercial depression have been obstacles in the way of the advancement of our Order. Nevertheless out of it all we have been blessed with some increase to our membership and an increased zeal among our membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I desire to recommend to this Encampment:

First. That a resolution be adopted by this Encampment authorizing the Commander-in-Chief to appoint a committee of five members of this Encampment for the purpose of investigating and reporting to the Seventeenth Annual Encampment for rejection or adoption by that body, a system of life insurance, with, or without accident and sick benefit. Membership in such insurance association to be optional with members of the Order.

Second. Unless otherwise recommended by the Commander-in-Chief, I would recommend the adoption of a resolution by this Encampment expressing sympathy with and approval of the efforts of our brothers, fathers and others, now residents of Hawaii, looking to the annexation of that country to the United States of America.

Third. That it would be, in my judgment, for the advancement of our Order, if we would adopt a system by which we would have two branches or degrees—a civic and a military—the civic to include all members of the Order, and the military only those members who will devote the time and money necessary to make a presentable military body.

To our Commander-in-Chief and staff we owe a large debt of gratitude and thanks for their zealous and earnest work in behalf of our beloved institution. To guide and control a craft floating down stream when all is well is comparatively an easy matter; but to take the craft up stream, against the tide and other obstructions, is quite another thing. We all appreciate the good work accomplished, and gratefully acknowledge it.

As to the work in the western part of our jurisdiction, I would say: That the Camp-fires of the Sons of Veterans are burning brightly, and the sound of songs of friendship, charity and loyalty, with words of remembrance for our fathers and their noble deeds, are heard on every hand. So much is this true that we are of the opinion that the principles advanced and taught by our Order have taken such a firm hold upon the citizens of this nation that there will never be again, in the history of our beloved land,

a time when it will be drenched with the blood of our own citizenship, but it will ever remain one united country, under one flag, and ever be one people, having no king but God, and ever vigilant for personal and national liberty. Fraternally submitted,

LEO W. KENNEDY,
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
LOUISVILLE, KY., August 12th, 1897.

Gen. J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I beg leave to submit the following as my report as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. At the time of my election to this honorable position, last September, I had promised myself to do great things for the cause of our grand Order; but, unfortunately for myself, on the 1st of November, 1896, I was stricken down with a severe sickness, and have not recovered as yet. This must be my excuse for doing absolutely nothing in the good cause this year. In May, 1897, I attended the Encampment of the Division of Kentucky, held at Lexington, Kentucky, and beg to say that it was most prosperous and the best attended Encampment that the Division of Kentucky has ever had. Arguing from this, I think that the Sons of Veterans in this State are beginning to be awake and alive to the interests of the Order, and will do more than they have ever done before for it.

At the invitation of Speed S. Fry Camp, No. 8, Division of Kentucky, under whose auspices the decoration ceremonies were held at the National Cemetery, on the battlefield of Mills' Spring, I traveled from my home in Louisville, Kentucky, to Somerset, Kentucky, one hundred and fifty miles, and on the 31st day of May, 1897, endeavored, to the best of my ability, to deliver an address upon that occasion. That is all that I have been enabled to do for the good of the cause this year, but would have done more had I been physically able to do so. Fraternally submitted,

R. M. BUCKLEY.

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.
DEPARTMENT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
READING, PA., Sept. 1, 1897.

To Gen. James Lewis Rake, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

ESTEEMED SIR AND COMMANDER:—I have the honor to herewith, in compliance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, present my report as Adjutant-General for the term of 1896-1897.

The various statements or tabulated forms will show in detail what is unnecessary to consume in words and space to explain.

Your daily supervision of affairs at headquarters, and having been in constant touch with the details and work of this department, make you thoroughly familiar with all that has been done and the manner in which it has been executed.

RECORDS.

All the records of the office as required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations were given the required attention. One new "Commission Book," or Volume No. 2, for recording commissions, was added during the past year, Volume No. 1 having been filled. In all other details the records have been carefully kept and all returns recorded and noted.

QUARTERLY REPORTS.

The returns and payment of per capita tax quarterly is a source of much trouble in this office. It is the fault of Division Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters. Some are too careless and give their reports

seemingly little if any attention. Some have no regard (apparently) for correctness, or little if any manifest interest or pride in their work or of making proper records for their Divisions, so that their reports are often forwarded in such a state as to make an officer with good S. V. training, with regard for correct and proper returns, blush for the extent of the knowledge such who present reports of that character seem to possess.

We are justified in expecting more from the officers and staff in Divisions than any other branch of the Order. Yet there are many First and Quartermaster-Sergeants who have more pride in having their reports correct and better than a number of Adjutants and Quartermasters.

I have frequently been obliged to get out or make up the reports of Adjutants that were merely submitted to headquarters in form. It is ordinary and quite usual for Adjutants to pay no regard whatever to the "number of members in good standing at date of last report," and instead of starting their quarterly reports with that actual number, simply start with what in their judgment may be right, depending upon the acceptance of such reports at headquarters, or "to be corrected there." Naturally there are exceptions, and to those this does not apply, for they were not responsible for the condition of affairs as left by their predecessors in certain Divisions.

The delay of Division Commanders in forwarding their reports and per capita tax is most exasperating, and in spite of all efforts to prevent the same it always occurs. Stringent methods seem to have no bearing to bring about the desired promptness in this respect.

Our advice in a number of instances to overcome delays has been to have Division Commanders detail their Division and Staff officers to visit delinquent and other Camps, to secure reports and tax and forward same to headquarters. This is an admirable plan and when carried out has been most beneficial and successful in preventing unnecessary delays in the receipt of tax and reports, as well as suspension of Camps and members.

PAYMENT OF TAX ON REINSTATEMENTS.

One of my predecessors in his report states that he did not note the suspensions of Camps as reported by the various Divisions in their quarterly consolidated reports, in the Record or Descriptive Books of Camps.

I regularly and carefully noted every Camp reported suspended in every Division for the non-payment of per capita tax, as well as the reinstatement, etc., of each Camp reported. I carefully noted suspended Camps, and marked the dates thereof in each instance, for the purpose of keeping the record correct as to the proper amount of per capita tax to secure from Divisions when they reported such Camps reinstated from suspended.

In a number of instances there was objection to the payment of per capita tax for all the quarters due on Camps reinstated. The Constitution, Rules and Regulations is clear on this and the result was that the Commandery-in-Chief secured the dues or per capita tax it was justly entitled to. It caused considerable trouble during the year, but as it was right it paid for the annoyance and labor imposed. If the period or date of suspension of such Camps had not been noted or recorded, we naturally would have been unable to obtain the dues or per capita tax on reinstated Camps that had been suspended for more than one quarter.

FORM No. 37.

A great improvement on the consolidated returns or quarterly report of Adjutants, Form 37, can be made, and one that will produce a most beneficial result financially as well as otherwise to the Commandery-in-Chief. It is in the matter of reporting Camps reinstated from suspension. I suggest that under the "Recapitulation" on the present Form 37, there be provided these headings, "Camps and number of members reinstated in each of said Camps" for one quarter, for two quarters, for three quarters and for four quarters (respectively) and "on which per capita tax is due for the quarters shown," in addition to the number in good standing and on which "tax is due for this quarter." There should be four columns for each quarter, under the heading of which the number of Camp and its *reinstated*

membership should be shown, as well as the amount of tax due the Commandery-in-Chief on said Camps and their membership as reinstated.

CHANGE IN FORM No. 49.

I urge the adoption of the recommendation of several of my predecessors relative to change in Form 49—"Certificate of Election of Division Officers," wherein they recommended that the form in question be so revised as to also include the roster or appointment of the Division Staff Officers. At present there is no form provided to obtain the official appointments of staff officers by Division Commanders. There should be such a form.

"OLD GLORY" AND OUR COLORS.

From the day that we took possession of the Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters "Old Glory" has been floating in the breeze day and night from a flag-staff from our rooms. It has caused favorable comment on the part of the public press and the community in our city of 85,000 population, and to our membership and the Grand Army Posts of Reading it has been a source of pride and given them much pleasure as a lesson in patriotism. The Order reaped the benefit of this feature.

The colors of the Commandery-in-Chief have had careful attention during the past year, and as a matter of protection and preservation tarlatan coverings were prepared, in which the flags or colors were encased. In this manner they were exposed and suspended in the rooms on the walls as a means of caring for them against the ravages of moths or other causes which they were liable to be damaged by in being rolled up or kept in their coverings.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our actual membership no one will dispute is larger than the number in good standing as reported in my quarterly report for quarter ending June. The great number recorded as suspended is due to the promptness we required Divisions to forward their reports for said quarter. It has been customary to allow Division Commanders more time to get in their reports, but for the quarter named we could not grant them greater limit. Many of their Camps failed to report in required time and were naturally marked suspended. Consequently our membership in good standing is shown (I believe) to be at least 2,000 less than it really is. Promptness, if always carried out in future, will bring better results.

APPLICATIONS, CHARTERS, ETC.

There have been approved 183 applications for charters and there have been mustered 174 new Camps, necessitating the issuing of that number of charters. Applications were approved on the date of receipt and at once returned to Division Commanders and charters were always issued upon the day of receipt of Form 23.

ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.

There have been issued seven General Orders, five Special Orders, three Official Circulars and a Circular and Address to the G. A. R., all of which are included in this report.

Commissions have also been issued as required by the C., R. and R.

DISPENSATIONS.

There were 23 dispensations issued during the past year. I am of the opinion that the sum of \$1.00 at least should be charged for each dispensation and respectfully urge that the Encampment authorize such charge to be made from this time on for each and every dispensation issued.

CONCLUSION.

We are about to sever our official relations, but as a matter of record it is my pleasure to testify to your personal worth and executive capabilities. As your Adjutant two terms I learned to know your eminent qualifications. My best efforts fail to frame the sentences that I would like to use to acquaint the membership with a more thorough knowledge of the ability of their Commander-in-Chief. The best tribute I can pay you is the wish that every member could know you as I do.

In taking leave officially of those whom I have learned to know and worked with in the various Divisions, I desire to take this means of thanking them for the courtesies and kindness they have always shown me. Not one unpleasant experience have I had. On the contrary the most pleasant and really cordial relations existed with all.

Again thanking you and all, I have the honor to submit my report as

Your obedient servant in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER, "
Adjutant-General.

TABLE No. 1.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1896.

DIVISION.	No. in Good Stand'g Last Report.	GAIN.	AGGREGATE.	LOSSES.	No. in Good Standing.	No. Mustered during Quarter on which Tax is paid.	Amount of Per Capita Tax Received.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity as per Quarter-Master Sergeant's Reports.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.													
	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	By Transfer.	By Death.	By Dishonorable Discharge.	Camps.	Members.	TOTAL LOSS.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	No. of Members Dropped.	Camps.	Members.	No. Mustered during Quarter on which Tax is paid.	Amount of Per Capita Tax Received.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity as per Quarter-Master Sergeant's Reports.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	
Alabama and Tennessee.	14	327	3	108	1	2	98	5	187	19	464	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10 32	105 16	212 50	50	1	1	
California and H. I.	11	271	13	15	1	1	15	1	15	19	267	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10 63	68 87	260 70	50	1	1	
Colorado.	12	292	7	17	1	1	17	1	17	19	267	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 32	15 46	40 35	50	1	1	
Connecticut.	20	614	14	14	1	1	14	1	14	8	184	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34 04	129 00	638 40	7 95	1	1	
Delaware.	13	292	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	35	81	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1	
District of Columbia.	11	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	212	701	35	903	1	1	1	1	1	57 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1	
Florida.	55	1421	1	32	1	7	150	8	188	28	699	98	701	98	701	98	701	1	42	57 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1
Georgia.	63	1467	1	32	1	7	150	8	188	28	699	98	701	98	701	98	701	1	42	57 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1
Idaho.	53	1333	3	125	1	1	11	4	187	67	1470	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 32	15 46	40 35	50	1	1	
Illinois.	91	1923	4	132	2	2	28	6	312	110	3370	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	34 04	129 00	638 40	7 95	1	1	
Indiana.	53	1333	3	125	1	1	11	4	187	67	1470	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 32	15 46	40 35	50	1	1	
Iowa.	23	440	1	23	1	1	23	1	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1	
Kansas.	23	440	1	23	1	1	23	1	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8 00	38 41	760 94	30 81	1	1	
Kentucky.	135	4230	1	105	3	3	141	4	249	139	4470	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	54 28	146 32	1307 04	28 83	2	1	
Louisiana.	39	964	3	83	1	3	88	6	122	45	1086	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17 30	173 60	1143 45	214 56	14	6	
Maine.	33	512	1	35	1	3	50	4	53	37	597	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27 32	30 81	402 17	10 00	1	1	
Maryland.	33	512	1	35	1	3	50	4	53	37	597	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27 32	30 81	402 17	10 00	1	1	
Massachusetts.	29	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	48 44	75 37	832 70	34 00	6	1	
Michigan.	108	3059	1	182	5	4	192	8	312	110	3370	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	32 65	71 20	1103 13	35 00	2	1	
Minnesota.	95	2269	1	93	1	5	68	8	432	153	5963	2	25	5	4	1	1	1	32 65	71 20	1103 13	35 00	2	1	
Missouri.	155	6331	8	359	5	5	68	8	432	153	5963	2	25	5	4	1	1	1	32 65	71 20	1103 13	35 00	2	1	
Montana.	15	427	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14 41	14 41	14 41	14 41	1	1	
Nebraska.	22	399	4	15	1	1	4	1	15	483	4	22	483	1	1	1	1	1	220 92	508 21	10798 81	14 33	50	15	
Nevada.	54	1636	1	35	1	1	20	1	35	24	1236	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17 00	133 39	200 20	2 75	80	15	
New Hampshire.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13 80	7 74	145 37	2 75	80	15	
New Jersey.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13 80	7 74	145 37	2 75	80	15	
New York.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13 80	7 74	145 37	2 75	80	15	
Ohio.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13 80	7 74	145 37	2 75	80	15	
Oregon.	29	590	3	68	1	1	6	3	68	32	639	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Pennsylvania.	1329	34255	41	1755	35	49	1119	90	2079	1419	37164	10	110	34	78	30	171	4657	\$1982 39	\$3600 15	\$34175 80	\$2143 4	148	32	
Rhode Island.	15	427	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
South Dakota.	22	399	4	15	1	1	4	1	15	483	4	22	483	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Texas.	54	1636	1	35	1	1	20	1	35	24	1236	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Vermont.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Washington.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
West Virginia.	20	646	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Wisconsin.	29	590	3	68	1	1	6	3	68	32	639	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 08	17 49	192 50	1 52	80	15	
Totals.	1329	34255	41	1755	35	49	1119	90	2079	1419	37164	10	110	34	78	30	171	4657	\$1982 39	\$3600 15	\$34175 80	\$2143 4	148	32	

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at last report.	Camps.	Members.
GAIN:	1,329	34,255
By muster-in.	41	1,755
By transfer.	85	35
By reinstatement.	49	1,119
Total gain.	90	2,909
Loss:		
By disbanded.	1,419	5,118
By death.	10	37,104
By dishonorable discharge.	78	
By suspension.	80	
By dishonorable discharge.	171	4,867
Total loss.	181	
Total number in good standing.	1,298	32,046

Dropped, previously reported as suspended. Camps. Members.
 Number mustered during quarter on which no per capita tax is due. 285
 Amount received for per capita tax. 41
 Cash on hand at Division Headquarters. \$ 1,282.39
 Cash on hand in Camps. 3,360.18
 Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports. 34,176.80
 Number of members or their families relieved. 2,143.64
 Number of veterans or their families relieved. 148
 Number of members or their families relieved. 32

TABLE NO. 2.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

DIVISION.

No. in Good Standing Last Report.		Gain.				Aggregate.		Losses.										No. in Good Standing.		No. Mustered during Quarter on which no Per Capita Tax is payable.		Amount Received Per Capita Tax.		Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.		Cash on hand in Camps.		Expended in Charity, as per Quarterly Reports.		No. of Members or their Families Relieved.								
Camps.	Members.	By Muster in.		By Transfer.		Total Gain.		By Discharge.		By Death.		By Transfer.	By Pension.	By Discharge.	By Dishonorable Discharge.		Total Loss.		Camps.	Members.																		
		Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.																				
Alabama and Tennessee.	10	437	19	13	437	19	437	1	32	1	32	1	32	1	32	1	32	18	435	17	12	\$ 138 06	\$ 270 03	\$	45	1	1	1	1									
California and H. I.	11	267	1	1	268	1	268	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	291	12	44	64 78	110 82	2	2	2	2	2	2									
Colorado.	98	384	1	1	385	1	385	1	62	1	62	1	62	1	62	1	62	209	16	10	18 10	83 05	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2								
Connecticut.	29	851	25	4	876	29	876	3	73	1	73	1	73	1	73	1	73	16	200	3	1	158 45	831 12	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2							
Illinois.	61	1410	1	109	1511	1	1511	6	230	1	230	1	230	1	230	1	230	58	1431	1	42	65 84	724 12	42	45	10	10	10	10	10	10							
Iowa.	35	903	33	5	938	33	938	26	689	61	1472	1	3	153	3	156	53	1316	9	1	55 44	574 77	6	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
Kansas.	17	1558	1	181	1739	1	1739	5	183	1	188	1	5	192	1	197	12	1218	9	1	61 44	574 05	6	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
Kentucky.	10	334	25	2	361	25	361	1	13	2	14	1	6	142	1	148	1	1218	1	23	21 81	574 05	6	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
Maine.	22	440	1	65	505	1	505	4	85	4	89	4	85	13	3	157	24	127	1	20	10 80	181 07	10	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
Massachusetts.	139	4221	1	113	12	112	12	237	140	4458	3	31	2	138	3	157	24	127	1	20	10 80	181 07	10	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Michigan.	33	679	11	35	4	89	4	80	37	759	2	38	2	7	41	326	84	1	15	160 16	1144 32	755	84	25	6	5	5	5	5	5	5							
Minnesota.	40	951	35	3	57	4	95	44	1046	2	38	2	8	69	114	3198	50	919	39	04	66 24	232 19	38	10	6	6	6	6	6	6	6							
Missouri.	63	1129	4	126	7	19	4	152	57	1281	1	61	2	8	69	114	3198	50	919	39	04	66 24	232 19	38	10	6	6	6	6	6	6	6						
Nebraska.	27	1113	10	1	1	117	7	128	34	641	2	21	1	1	22	14	400	9	919	39	04	66 24	232 19	38	10	6	6	6	6	6	6	6						
New Hampshire.	19	834	11	1	22	1	33	30	657	1	15	2	1	67	19	600	6	770	5	1	20 66	1336 33	1122	00	23	15	3	3	3	3	3	3						
New Jersey.	29	802	1	55	2	16	54	102	3527	1	19	1	3	69	8	329	114	3198	50	2	146 90	339 07	5367	46	223	80	11	11	11	11	11	11						
New York.	106	2933	2	173	17	14	344	16	634	102	3327	1	5	21	5	337	9	2148	50	2	72	146 90	339 07	5367	46	223	80	11	11	11	11	11	11					
Ohio.	88	2209	1	50	1	16	240	17	293	125	2300	2	8	328	93	2148	50	919	39	1	97 44	64 28	11 03	50	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10					
Oregon.	10	135	1	16	1	1	16	11	151	1	151	1	3	39	2	43	12	439	1	16	3 84	23 66	23 09	34	00	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Pennsylvania.	161	5670	289	68	14	68	1	349	161	5979	5	73	12	6	12	498	149	5481	1	1	221 83	274 34	9117 60	1831 36	87	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Rhode Island.	15	418	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	432	1	8	3	9	2	102	14	450	8	1	16 73	163 06	209	11	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
South Dakota.	13	345	12	3	30	3	42	22	387	1	10	4	5	181	6	198	37	870	5	1	36 64	91 78	431 03	10 00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Texas.	41	1004	13	2	45	2	64	43	1068	1	10	3	4	5	193	6	198	37	870	5	1	36 64	91 78	431 03	10 00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Washington.	31	678	13	9	9	22	31	700	1	10	3	4	5	193	6	198	37	870	5	1	36 64	91 78	431 03	10 00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
West Virginia.	12	245	14	2	46	2	59	14	304	1	1	1	75	29	1	76	13	238	5	1	27 16	130 88	101 76	10 00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Wisconsin.	28	556	1	42	1	30	2	72	30	828	1	57	1	1	57	1	62	29	566	1	18	35 10	130 04	10 00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			
Totals.	1238	32046	16	1469	91	111	2264	127	3824	1365	36570	20	241	63	101	85	78	3437	31953	358	16	\$1290 81	\$3285 81	\$776 97	158	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24				

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.	Camps.	Members.
GAIN:	32,046	
By muster in.	1,238	
By transfer.	1,469	
By reinstatement.	111	2,264
Total gain.	127	3,824
LOSS:		
By disbanded.	1,365	
By death.	20	
By honorable discharge.	53	
By transfer.	101	
By suspension.	85	
By dishonorable discharge.	78	3,437
Total loss.	98	3,917
Number remaining in good standing, Dec. 31, 1896.	1,267	81,953

Number members dropped.	Camps.	Members.
Number mustered during quarter on which no per capita tax is payable.	16	358
Amount received for per capita tax.		389
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.		\$ 1,290 81
Cash on hand in Camps.		3,854 03
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports.		32,856 81
Number of members or their families relieved.		2,726 97
Number of veterans or their families relieved.		168
		24

TABLE No. 4.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1897.

No. in Good Standing at Date of Last Report.		GAIN.				AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.								No. in Good Standing.		No. Mustered during Quarter on which is due.				Amount Received Per Capita Tax.	Cash on hand at Division Head-quarters	Expended in Charity, as per Quar-temaster Sergeants' Reports	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.								
		BY MUSTER IN.		BY REIN-STATEMENT.				BY DISBANDED.		By Death.	By Transfer.	Camps.		Members.		By Dishonorable Discharge.		Camps.		Members.													
Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	\$	\$	\$	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.								
Alabama and Tennessee.	10	272	1	24	2	1	26	1	1	1	1	39	20	406	2	15 20	\$ 200 00	\$	20	18	10 60	\$0 81	125 07	6 00	1								
Alaska and H. I.	4	156	3	89	1	2	19	5	109	1	1	23	13	265	23	13	272	740	242	54	61 05	133 54	3 85	1									
Arizona.	27	764	46	46	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	69	97	270	9	5	744	270	744	303	30 34	887 66	8 23	1									
Arkansas.	11	130	15	145	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	101	11	1044	5	6	225	11	1044	57 75	708 47	8 70	2										
California.	70	1623	6	335	9	2	36	18	2003	2	3	95	101	1340	3	12	169	11	1340	169 01	2207 12	62 20	2										
Colorado.	56	1322	6	356	8	2	172	9	273	2	5	163	12	1772	0	160	67	1413	143	52 56	762 14	23 85	2										
Connecticut.	64	1316	3	121	8	2	98	10	227	1	6	176	69	1413	7	31	10 20	60 80	54 93	739 23	33 68	2											
Delaware.	13	279	2	62	7	2	39	10	227	12	12	283	65	1340	5	68 52	160 01	220 12	62 20	267 12	80 20	2											
District of Columbia.	48	1327	4	181	6	15	4	202	52	1529	4	101	45	1478	8	4	195	52	282 60	38 52	1349 80	2 30	1										
Florida.	25	480	2	53	1	32	2	86	27	566	1	3	55	24	511	8	67	176 68	1373 73	7190 41	380 69	35	12										
Georgia.	136	4127	2	361	20	1	100	3	481	139	4608	3	33	136	1133	2	52	28 28	104 21	133 25	648 05	35 40	2										
Idaho.	41	864	6	277	3	4	17	10	357	31	1073	1	256	28	759	3	49	59 36	72 53	152 45	21 43	2											
Illinois.	37	874	2	98	1	34	3	113	91	1042	1	10	208	10	214	2	66	20 36	72 53	152 45	21 43	2											
Indiana.	48	993	2	78	1	28	4	112	35	659	8	112	27	547	4	1	21	23 44	133 30	210 74	19 00	4											
Iowa.	20	597	1	42	1	8	1	20	41	648	2	49	20	589	5	1	11	220	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	1										
Kansas.	26	751	7	48	3	50	8	120	3700	1	15	7	47	758	5	1	220	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	1											
Kentucky.	112	3233	7	410	7	50	8	47	100	2244	67	1578	1	220	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	1										
Louisiana.	98	2106	53	53	2	83	2	135	100	100	2244	67	1578	1	220	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	134 82	431 46	438 70	37 20	1									
Maine.	93	1	16	1	16	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1									
Maryland.	6	612	6	515	16	94	7	625	156	156	6227	7	90	6	270	3552 37	1412 43	67	1412 43	67	1412 43	67	1412 43	67									
Massachusetts.	151	6602	6	515	16	94	7	625	156	156	6227	7	90	6	270	3552 37	1412 43	67	1412 43	67	1412 43	67	1412 43	67									
Michigan.	17	282	3	55	1	49	6	105	23	357	1	35	14	356	6	15 44	54 38	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69									
Minnesota.	33	797	16	16	3	6	15	23	356	356	1	35	14	356	6	15 44	54 38	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69	251 69									
Missouri.	28	636	12	12	3	3	18	28	654	654	1	16	364	13	280	15	29 68	35 76	478 31	5 00	1	1	1	1									
Montana.	10	150	1	46	1	53	3	99	13	249	11	203	8 40	16 18	9 50	46	29 68	35 76	478 31	5 00	1	1	1	1									
Nebraska.	32	642	4	126	1	46	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	46	11	203	8 40	16 18	9 50	46	29 68	35 76	478 31	5 00	1								
Nevada.	1955	32075	72	3556	98	37	1050	109	4704	15	200	37	80	72	1852	\$4131 80	\$32934 63	3396 63	133	31	\$1250 63	\$4131 80	\$32934 63	133	31								
New Hampshire.																																	
New Jersey.																																	
New Mexico.																																	
New York.																																	
North Carolina.																																	
Ohio.																																	
Oregon.																																	
Pennsylvania.																																	
Rhode Island.																																	
South Dakota.																																	
Tennessee.																																	
Vermont.																																	
Washington.																																	
West Virginia.																																	
Wisconsin.																																	
Totals.	1255	32975	72	3556	98	37	1050	109	4704	1364	36779	15	200	37	80	72	169	4365	2	184	4760	\$1250 63	\$4131 80	\$32934 63	133	31							

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.	Camps.	Members.
GAIN:	1,255	32,075
By muster-in.	72	3,556
By transfer.	37	1,050
By reinstatement.	109	4,704
Total gain.	1,864	36,779
Loss:		
By disbanded.	15	200
By death.	37	80
By honorable discharge.	72	4,365
By suspension.	169	2
By dishonorable discharge.	184	
Total loss.	31	1,190
Number remaining in good standing, June 30, 1897.		1,190

Number members dropped. 31
 Number mustered during quarter, on which no per capita tax is payable. 72
 Amount received for per capita tax. \$ 1,250.63
 Cash on hand at Division Headquarters. \$ 4,131.80
 Cash on hand in Camps. 32,394.63
 Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports. 3,296.63
 Number of members or their families relieved. 183
 Number of veterans or their families relieved. 31

TABLE No. 5.

Number in good standing June 30, 1896.....						Camps.	Mems.
						1,329	34,255
GAIN.		By Muster in.		By Transfer.		By Reinstatement.	
	Camps.	Members.	Members.	Members.	Members.	Camps.	Members.
Sept., 1896, Quarter...	41	1,755	35	49	1,119		
Dec., 1896, Quarter....	16	1,469	91	111	2,264		
Mar., 1897, Quarter....	48	2,573	121	62	1,434		
June, 1897, Quarter....	72	3,556	98	37	1,050		
Aggregate.....	177	9,353	345	259	5,867		
Total gain.....						436	15,565
Aggregate.....						1,765	49,820
Loss.		By Disbanded.		By Honor- able Dis.		By Suspension.	
	Camps.	Mems.	Mems.	Mems.	Mems.	Camps.	Mems.
Sept., 1896, Quarter..	10	109	34	78	30	171	4,867
Dec., 1896, Quarter..	20	241	53	101	65	78	3,437
Mar., 1897, Quarter..	23	396	43	113	134	99	3,324
June, 1897, Quarter..	15	200	37	80	72	169	4,365
Aggregate.....	68	946	167	372	321	517	15,993
Total loss.....							2
						585	17,801
Number in good standing June 30, 1897.....						1,180	32,019
Number mustered since June 30, 1897.....						32	773
Number in good standing September 1, 1897.....						1,212	32,792

TABLE No. 6.

Roster of Division Commanders, 1897-1898.

DIVISION.	COMMANDER.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	L. W. Friedman.
California and H. I.....	Charles L. Pierce.
Colorado.....	Harlan Thomas.
Connecticut.....	W. W. Wheeler.
Gulf.....	H. W. Robinson.
Illinois.....	C. R. Clarke.
Indiana.....	R. S. Thompson.
Iowa.....	A. T. Wilson.
Kansas.....	W. P. Feder.
Kentucky.....	T. Z. Morrow, jr.
Maine.....	Arthur M. Soule.
Maryland.....	Edward K. DePuy.
Massachusetts.....	Orange H. Cook.
Michigan.....	H. E. Cowdin.
Minnesota.....	Henry Stodieck, jr.
Missouri.....	E. E. Schoening.
Nebraska.....	W. H. Davis.
New Hampshire.....	Walter S. Willey.
New Jersey.....	Jesse R. Dungan.
New York.....	John M. Diven.
Ohio.....	A. W. Jones.
Oregon.....	L. W. Oren.
Pennsylvania.....	Wildun Scott.
Rhode Island.....	Charles W. Abbot, jr.
South Dakota.....	R. J. Courtney.
Vermont.....	William W. Lapoint.
Washington.....	C. V. Savidge.
West Virginia.....	H. W. Thurber.
Wisconsin.....	Charles C. Townsend.

TABLE No. 7.

Charters issued, showing number of new Camps and members mustered therein.			Applications for Charters approved.	
DIVISION.	Number of Camps or Charters.	Number of Recruits or Members Mustered.	Number of Camps.	Number of Applicants.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	3	93	1	16
California and H. I.....	1	18	1	18
Colorado.....	4	85	4	85
Connecticut.....	1	17	1	22
Gulf.....	1	15	1	15
Illinois.....	17	518	18	524
Indiana.....	10	211	10	238
Iowa.....	18	436	18	436
Kansas.....	7	135	9	190
Kentucky.....	5	111	9	164
Maine.....	9	216	9	238
Maryland.....	3	46	3	50
Massachusetts.....	5	109	5	109
Michigan.....	13	357	15	421
Minnesota.....	3	81	3	81
Missouri.....	7	148	7	151
Nebraska.....	5	131	5	136
New Hampshire.....	3	60	3	68
New Jersey.....	3	67	3	68
New York.....	15	401	14	379
Ohio.....	5	102	6	142
Oregon.....	1	15	2	37
Pennsylvania.....	16	365	13	389
South Dakota.....	2	46	6	115
Vermont.....	1	24	1	23
Washington.....	2	35	2	34
West Virginia.....	1	46	1	40
Wisconsin.....	13	296	8	327
Total.....	174	4175	183	4506

GENERAL ORDERS.



HEADQUARTERS
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS,
U. S. A.

General Orders No. 5, }
Series of 1896.

READING, PA., *September 30, 1896.*

I. Pursuant to action of the Fifteenth (15th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Louisville, Ken., Sept. 8-11, command is hereby assumed and headquarters have been established in the Second National Bank Block, Penn Square, Reading, Pa.

II. Following officers were elected by the Commandery-in-Chief :

Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa. ; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy, Denver, Col. ; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley, Louisville, Ken. ; Council-in-Chief, C. Borin, Oberlin, Kan. ; F. W. Myers, Parkersburg, W. Va. (Ohio Div.) ; J. H. Heine, Hooper, Neb.

III. The place selected for the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is Indianapolis, Ind., the date to be selected later by the Council-in-Chief.

IV. The following appointments are hereby promulgated :

Adjutant-General, H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa. ; Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink, Providence, R. I. They were duly installed by Past Grand Division Commander and Constitutional Life Member of Penna., R. M. J. Reed, assisted by Past Surgeon-General Dr. Dan. S. Gardner, Ohio.

The following appointments are hereby announced :

Ass't Adjutant-General, Past Division Commander C. E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa. ; Ass't Quartermaster-General, Fred. J. Sanford, Chicago, Ill. ; Personal Aide to the Commander-in-Chief, Past Division Commander E. W. Alexander, Reading, Pa.

V. All remittances for charter fees and per capita tax must be sent to Adjutant-General H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa., and be made payable to his order. All remittances for supplies must be sent to Quartermaster-

General Rudolph Loebenstein, Room 7, No. 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill., and be made payable to his order. All remittances to either officer must be made in the shape of New York or Chicago Exchange, or Post Office or Express Money Orders. Personal checks, or drafts on other than New York or Chicago banks, cannot be accepted.

VI. In accordance with the action of the Commandery-in-Chief Encampment, at Louisville, the Quartermaster-General and all Division Quartermasters are hereby directed to destroy all forms pertaining to inspections heretofore existing. The Quartermaster General is hereby directed to prepare new forms for inspection, as submitted by Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, which have been duly approved.

The Inspector-General's list of official assignments for the inspection of Divisions will be promulgated shortly. Meanwhile Division Commanders will make proper requisition on the Quartermaster-General for the requisite number of the new forms for inspection. The cost of same remains unchanged.

VII. Inasmuch as Division Commanders will be held to strict accountability, reports and per capita tax for last quarter must be forwarded in strict accordance with C., R. and R., as by adherence to our law only can we hope to succeed.

VIII. We must insist that correspondence be conducted through proper channels. Camps and individual members desiring information or decisions must communicate through their respective Division Headquarters. The business of the Commandery-in-Chief will be transacted directly with the several Divisions.

IX. Division Commander R. B. Oglesbee, of Indiana, has called attention to a flagrant and unwarranted use of the title of our organization in connection with the present political campaign in his Division, and he is to be commended for the prompt action he has taken in the premises. It appears that over-zealous persons, not connected with the Order, have been organizing political clubs under the title of the "Sons of Veterans," and enlisting into their cause persons without reference to their membership in our Order. The attention of all Division and Camp Commanders is specially directed to Article XXI, Rules and Regulations, which strictly prohibits our members from using the Order for either sectarian or political purposes.

There is no inclination at any time to in any way interfere with the political liberties of any of our members; they are entitled to the fullest freedom which American citizenship allows in the exercise of their political preferences, but no one has a right to connect the name of "Sons of Veterans" with any concerted political movement, and the respective officers of Divisions and Camps throughout the Order should carefully see that the C., R. and R. is not violated, under penalty to the offenders of a severance of their relations to this organization.

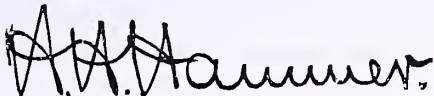
X. Notwithstanding the fact that the effects of the preceding administration were promptly forwarded Sept. 14, we are still without definite advices of the same, and are, therefore, laboring under a disadvantage. Any apparent delinquencies may be attributed to this cause, which we hope to have speedily remedied. We ask the hearty co-operation of all members of our organization during the current year.

XI. Division Commanders are directed to promulgate this order and all subsequent orders to all Past Division Commanders in good standing in their respective Divisions.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :



Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, }
84 La Salle St., Room 7, CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 18, 1896. }
J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother :—I have the honor to submit the following report, supplemental to my report to the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, this report covering the business of this department up to the beginning of your administration :

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

DR.	CR.
Cash on hand, as per report.....\$1,427.32	Paid :
Received for furniture (stove sold)..... 10.00	For general expenses.....\$ 19.87
Received for charter fees.. 8.00	For salaries..... 250.00
Received for P. C. tax.... 173.91	For traveling expenses.... 12.85
Received balances due from Divisions..... 46.97	For expenses of 15th Annual Encampment..... 696.36
	Cash on hand..... 687.12
\$1,666.20	\$1,666.20

GENERAL ACCOUNT, SEPTEMBER 10, 1896.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Furniture.....\$ 587.69	Due to Divisions.....\$ 4.60
Supplies..... 1,525.39	Surplus..... 2,804.07
Cash..... 687.12	
Due from Divisions..... 8.47	
\$2,808.67	\$2,808.67

PROFIT AND LOSS, TO SEPTEMBER 10, 1896.

LOSSES.	GAINS.
Salaries.....\$ 250.00	Charter fees.....\$ 8.00
Traveling expenses..... 12.85	Per capita tax..... 173.91
General expenses..... 19.87	Balance (net loss)..... 797.17
15th Annual Encampment. 696.36	
\$ 979.08	\$ 979.08

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

General Orders No. 6, }
Series of 1896. }

READING, PA., October 27, 1896.

I. The following Staff officers have been appointed and will be respected and obeyed accordingly : Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond, Burlington, Kansas ; Surgeon-General, J. A. Mabbs, M. D., Holland, Mich. ; Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. Somerville Light, Wabash, Ind.

II. The official minutes of the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, recently held at Louisville, Ky., are in course of preparation and will be promulgated promptly upon receipt from the printer. It may be well to call attention to the fact that there was no legislation affecting the Constitution, Rules and Regulations or the Ritual.

III. Division Commanders will order Division Surgeons on duty and direct that Surgeons' reports must be made on the blanks provided for the purpose prior to January 1st, 1897. The Surgeon-General will note and act accordingly.

IV. Division Commanders are reminded of the urgency to forward promptly the quarterly reports of their Adjutants and Quartermasters, as by promptness alone can the business of the National Headquarters be satisfactorily dispatched. The per capita tax remains unchanged.

V. Numerous reports received at these Headquarters are next to unintelligible. Delays only result therefrom, as unless clear in every respect the same will be invariably returned to the source from which they emanate for correction. It should, however, be unnecessary to call attention to carelessness of this description.

VI. Division Commanders are reminded that the date set apart for Camp elections is near at hand, and it should be their aim to impress upon the members of Camps the necessity for carefully selecting the officers who are to serve in these all-important positions, for by raising the personnel of the same the Division in its turn is benefitted.

VII. A party claiming to be W. A. Crane, formerly of Richard Winans Camp, No. 74, Division of Michigan, dropped for non-payment of dues, has recently been soliciting aid from members of the Order in Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., and elsewhere. He is not entitled to fraternal recognition or assistance.

VIII. Upon recommendation of Division Commanders the charter of H. C. Clark Camp, No. 2, Spivey, Kan., and W. E. Cross Camp, No. 154, Amsterdam, N. Y., are hereby revoked and declared forfeited.

IX. By the time this order reaches the Camps the political excitement incident to the presidential election will have been passed. Every member in the Order should make it his aim to add at least one recruit to his Camp roll during the next quarter. In some instances a canvass of the locality in which a Camp is situated has disclosed the fact that there were more eligible recruits not members of the Order than actually contained on the Camp's muster roll. This is certainly wrong and the solution of the difficulty lies with the individual members, even more than with the officers of Camps, upon whom should devolve more particularly the actual work within the Camp room.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

General Orders No. 7, }
Series of 1896. }

READING, PA., December 10, 1896.

I. At the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held in Louisville, the following resolution was unanimously adopted and is hereby promulgated :

" *Resolved*, That to the Grand Army of the Republic we once more extend our sincere love and respect. That we deplore the sorrowful fact that their ranks are becoming thinned by death, and we pledge ourselves with renewed energy to perform our highest duty to them, and make ourselves worthy to gradually take up the grand work they have so nobly performed."

It is with unbounded pleasure that we can announce the hearty promise of support for the advancement of our interests by Commander-in-Chief Thaddeus S. Clarkson.

II. Following corrections and revisions in the Ritual were adopted upon recommendation by the Committee at the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Louisville. They are hereby promulgated, with directions that all Rituals be so corrected :

That portion of instructions for the movement of the square contained in brackets on page 23, to read as follows :

"Sergeant of the Guard marches to front of Captain's station ; at his command the Advance Guard 'about face,' the escort and recruit 'left face.'"

On page 23, next to last line, substitute "escort" in lieu of "Sergeant of Guard."

On page 30, add to instruction of Sergeant of Guard in brackets at top of page, "and gives command 'Twos left.'"

III. The membership is congratulated on the fact that we have succeeded in enlisting the assistance of the "National Tribune," Washington, D. C., in the upbuilding of our Order. Since the Louisville Encampment timely and excellent references to our Order in the said publication have appeared in every issue. The "Tribune" is making strenuous efforts to build up the Sons of Veterans into commanding strength and influence. It is sanguine that this can be done and is devoting much time, energy and great ability to the work. With its great circulation and wide reaching influence it is a welcome and most powerful ally. We are glad to call the attention of the membership to it, and to urge upon them to give it the heartiest co-operation and assistance. Let each and every brother consider THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE his paper. Write freely to the editor on any subject connected with the good of our Order. Send him any items of interest concerning the Camps and brethren in his locality, and do whatever can be done to call the attention of other members, and those who should become members, to the paper. This will greatly help to bring the membership in all parts of the country into closer communication.

Division Commanders are requested to urge upon Camps the importance of sending complete rosters of their membership to the address of this journal immediately.

IV. The attention of Division Commanders is called to the fact that it is none too early to prepare for the proper observance by all Camps of Union Defenders' Day, February 12, 1897. Rev. Somerville Light, Chaplain-in-Chief, Wabash, Ind., will prepare a suitable form of service for the observance of the event, and Chaplains of Divisions should immediately be instructed to report to him upon promulgation of this order.

V. Surgeons of Divisions should be instructed by their respective Commanders to have reports in the hands of Dr. J. A. Mobbs, Surgeon-General, Holland, Mich., without delay.

VI. Assistant Inspectors-General should forward reports without further delay to Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Box 1310, Providence, R. I.

VII. The last quarterly returns from the Adjutants and Quartermasters of the several Divisions have been in a great many cases unusually delayed, and while recognizing the causes which have led up to these delinquencies, and having made due allowances therefor, the fact must not be overlooked that Divisions who have not made satisfactory returns prior to January 1st, will not be in possession of the new password and countersign, which will be promulgated on that date.

VIII. Division Commanders are reminded that they do not issue "General" orders. *General* orders are only issued by the Commander-in-Chief. Division Commanders issue *Division* orders.

IX. Division orders are greatly diversified. It is hoped all will in future be uniform, particularly as to size. See Art. IX, Section H, page 66, General Rules and Regulations. Attention is also called to the requirement of Article XI of Chapter VI, with relation to the issuance of "General" and "Division" orders. Division Commanders will hereafter be governed thereby.

It is also hereby ordered that Division orders contain the electro of the Regulation Badge in lieu of the Coat-of-Arms. This is desirable for uniformity and appearance. The title "Division Adjutant" and similar prefixes to denote rank are irregular and unnecessary. "Adjutant" is sufficient.

X. Attention is called to violations of the C., R. and R., in connection with applications for Camp charters. Division Commanders will observe that no applications will be approved unless the records of all applicants are complete. In the event that same cannot be obtained before forwarding application use Form 16 with which the record can be supplied. Neither will any application be approved unless accompanied by the charter fee—\$2.00.

In many instances delays occur owing to applications for Camps not containing the number of the Camp to be chartered. Applications always should contain the number assigned to the Camp for which charter is applied for.

In a number of Divisions a practice prevails of detailing officers such as "Chief of Staff," for which there is no constitutional authority, and such appointments cannot receive recognition.

XI. The charter of Francis C. Green Camp, No. 1, Division of Rhode Island, has been revoked and declared forfeited upon recommendation of the Division Commander.

XII. Advantage should be taken to have the installations in all Camps be the means of assembling every member with a view of arousing a new interest for the ensuing year in our entire membership.

XIII. The officers and staff of the Commandery-in-Chief extend to the membership throughout our great country Christmas greeting and best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

General Orders No. 1, }
Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., *February 9, 1897.*

I. Owing to the delay on the part of Division Commanders to forward their consolidated reports within the required time this order, embodying the consolidated returns, has been reluctantly delayed. Some Division Commanders failed to forward their reports for quarter ending September, 1896, until February 1st, 1897. In nearly all instances it was pardonable. We feel that in presenting the returns for the quarter named, the results, although not as good as they should be, are readily explainable. The various Division Commanders have had most trying and difficult experiences to contend with. The election and political campaign which we have passed through has been entirely responsible, and to this we attribute directly the decreased showing in the number of Camps and members reported in good standing. By supplementary reports a better showing could have been made but the delay would have been too great. From the reports now being received from Division Commanders we are confidently led to believe that the future will be more assuring; there is more interest, renewed energy has taken the place of apathy, and under all the circumstances congratulations are warrantable from the fact that we have, as an Order, passed the crisis and surmounted the obstacles with but a trifling loss in numerical strength. Existing conditions have permitted the leniency we have shown. It cannot, however, be expected to again be extended. Division Commanders and Camps are hereby notified that unless their reports and per capita tax are forwarded promptly within the specified time, they will not be shielded. All must in future be prompt in transmitting the prescribed reports.

II. A circular letter addressed to the G. A. R. in behalf of our Order—urging the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic to organize Camps and requesting them to aid and nourish the Camps requiring the same and now in existence, has been promulgated from these Headquarters to all Posts, through the various Department Headquarters, upon the following endorsement and approval of Commander-in-Chief T. S. Clarkson and Adjutant-General Charles E. Burmester:

"General Orders No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
OMAHA, NEB., January 7, 1897. }

Recognizing that our sons must take up the work we soon shall lay aside—and recognizing also the great importance of organization in their ranks as well as our own, the Commander-in-Chief most heartily commends to all Commanders and comrades the address issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, directs that it be read in every Post, and asks their hearty co-operation in sustaining Camps already organized, and in the organization of new ones."

We are greatly indebted to Comrades Clarkson and Burmester for their favor and kindness, and for the assurances of co-operation and moral support from the various Department Commanders and Assistant Adjutants-General we are deeply obligated.

These circulars, giving full instructions as to the organization of Camps of Sons of Veterans, have been (and are being) promulgated to all of the 8,000 Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in the country. The result cannot be but beneficial.

Brothers: The eyes of the veterans of the G. A. R. are upon you. Be true to your trust. Prove yourself worthy by your conduct and bearing of the confidence reposed in you when you were permitted to become a Son of a Veteran, and show "how excellent it is for veterans' sons to dwell together."

Division Commanders should communicate with the various G. A. R. Posts in their Divisions on the subject of organization and assistance, and supply all with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, a blank application for charter, and such information as may be of benefit and necessary for the organization of new Camps. Let all Division Commanders comply with this AT ONCE.

It is hoped the National Tribune, Washington, D. C., in its efforts to build up the membership of our Order will be assisted and appreciated by all.

Attention is also called to the services in behalf of our Order of "The Advocate," Des Moines, Iowa; "The Industrial School News," Scotland, Pa.; "Camp Messenger," 2539 Frankford Ave., Phila., Pa.; "The Patriot," 25 and 27 Third Ave., New York; "The Picket," Wichita, Kansas; "The Sentry," St. Paul, Minn.; "Grand Army Journal," 88 Nassau Street, New York, and "The Coffee Cooler," Sturgis, Mich.

Surely with these powerful allies, and especially the project of the National Tribune, and the assistance of the G. A. R., we cannot help but flourish and become "that instrument of great good" we are striving for, if we but half do what is expected of us.

III. By communication from Past Inspector-General Fred. C. Stillson, Chairman of the Committee on Ritual, at the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief of 1896, held at Louisville, Kentucky, "*Sergeant of the Guard*," was intended instead of "First Sergeant," under caption "Balloting on Candidates," page 135, proceedings Fifteenth Annual Encampment. The sentence as corrected should read: "That at the election of candidates the *Sergeant of the Guard* shall present the ballot box

to the 2d and 1st Lieutenant in order named, etc." This correction should be noted and observed.

IV. Following Camps have had their charters revoked on proper recommendation :

Nebraska Division : Camps 25, 68, 89, 90, 102, 118, 163.

V. Divisions will hold their Annual Encampments as follows :

Missouri :—Warrensburg, May 13-14.

Massachusetts :—Worcester, February 22.

New Jersey :—Trenton, February 18.

Illinois :—Galesburg, May 4-6.

Rhode Island :—Providence, February 12.

Adjutants will report date and place of Encampments not herein announced to the Adjutant-General at once.

VI. The Commander-in-Chief desires to commend to all Camps the excellence of the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Sons of Veterans, and earnestly urges that societies be organized in connection with Camp.

VII. Division Commanders are again directed to see that the reports of their respective Inspectors and Surgeons are forwarded without further delay to the proper staff officers of the Commander-in-Chief, who report delinquencies in a number of Divisions. Failure to comply with these constitutional requirements will be sufficient to deprive Divisions from representation in the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. The C., R. and R. will be strictly enforced in this respect.

VIII. The observance of Union Defenders' Day, following the instructions promulgated by the Chaplain-in-Chief, it is hoped will be general and receive that attention, reverence and honor which the name of Abraham Lincoln inspires.

The celebration of Washington's Birthday also, in such suitable manner and form as may be agreeable, is recommended to all Camps.

IX. The semi-annual password and countersign was duly promulgated to all Divisions for the current term.

Information has been received at these Headquarters that in several instances Commandery-in-Chief orders are not promptly promulgated to Camps.

Division Commanders are hereby directed to issue *at once* all orders emanating from these Headquarters. No delay in this respect can be tolerated.

Past Division officers must also be supplied with Commandery-in-Chief orders from Division Headquarters.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official.



Adjutant-General.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,
84 La Salle St., Room 7, CHICAGO, ILL., January 11, 1897. }

J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to submit my report for the term beginning on the 14th day of September, 1896, and ending on the 31st day of December, 1896:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

DR.		CR.	
Cash on hand, as per last report	\$ 687 12	Paid for:	
Received for supplies	1122 02	Supplies (including cost of shipping)	\$ 851 88
Received for P. C. tax	1167 87	Office expenses	436 47
Received for charter fees ..	54 76	General expenses	177 67
Received for miscellaneous.	1 19	General orders	54 63
		Salaries	750 00
		Fifteenth National Encampment	464 48
		Furniture (repairs)	7 30
		Traveling expenses	13 88
		Miscellaneous	10 81
		Cash on hand	265 84
	<u>\$3032 96</u>		<u>\$3032 96</u>

December 31st, 1896. Supplies on hand, as per inventory.....\$1584 63

GENERAL ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Various Divisions	\$ 31 02	Various Divisions	\$ 2 42
Furniture	594 99	A. P. Davis	172 80
Supplies	1584 63	Surplus	2301 26
Cash	265 84		
	<u>\$2476 48</u>		<u>\$2476 48</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

LOSSES.		GAINS.	
Supplies (obsolete blanks destroyed)	\$ 22 33	Charter fees	\$ 55 00
General orders	54 63	P. C. tax	1166 47
Salaries	750 00	Supplies (profit)	195 18
Traveling expenses	13 88	Balance (net loss)	502 81
Office expenses	436 47		
General expenses	177 67		
Fifteenth National Encampment	464 48		
	<u>\$1919 46</u>		<u>\$1919 46</u>

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

Since last announcement applications for charters for Camps have been approved as follows :

Date Approval.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Applicants.
Aug. 10, 1896....	50	Braymer.....	Missouri.....	21
" 10, 1896....	80	Haverstraw.....	New York.....	24
" 10, 1896....	100	Wooster.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	31
" 14, 1896....	43	Greenwood.....	Pennsylvania.....	16
" 14, 1896....	63	Grant.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 17, 1896....	223	Pottsville.....	Pennsylvania.....	35
" 24, 1896....	73	Ellwood City.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 27, 1896....	78	Sandy Lake.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 31, 1896....	62	Tamaqua.....	Pennsylvania.....	44
" 31, 1896....	11	Sardia.....	Alabama and Tenn....	20
" 31, 1896....	126	Mediapolis.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
Sept. 17, 1896....	57	Herndon.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 21, 1896....	2	Girard.....	Kansas.....	37
Oct. 2, 1896....	15	Princeville.....	Illinois.....	41
" 5, 1896....	85	Buffalo.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
" 12, 1896....	12	Lebanon.....	Kentucky (Dis.).....	17
" 27, 1896....	52	Stella.....	Missouri.....	25
Nov. 2, 1896....	83	Algona.....	Iowa.....	20
" 2, 1896....	157	Winfield.....	Iowa.....	23
" 3, 1896....	4	Albany.....	Kentucky.....	28
" 3, 1896....	7	Gap Creek.....	Kentucky.....	15
" 5, 1896....	16	Thibodeaux (La.)....	Gulf.....	15
" 13, 1896....	32	Orion.....	Wisconsin.....	17
" 17, 1896....	14	Glastonbury.....	Connecticut.....	22
" 23, 1896....	2	Elizabeth.....	New Jersey (Dis.)..	25
" 30, 1896....	8	Poughkeepsie.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
Dec. 7, 1896....	54	Rutledge.....	Missouri.....	21
" 8, 1896....	105	Belchertown.....	Massachusetts.....	19
" 9, 1896....	33	Spring Valley.....	Wisconsin.....	20
" 17, 1896....	139	Kirwin.....	Kansas.....	18
" 21, 1896....	19	Brooklyn.....	New York (Dis.).....	39
" 26, 1896....	112	Oxford.....	Massachusetts.....	15
" 28, 1896....	355	Burr Oak.....	Indiana.....	16
" 28, 1896....	3	Huntington.....	Oregon.....	15
" 31, 1896....	215	Duncan's Mills.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	34
" 31, 1896....	51	Biddeford.....	Maine (Dis.).....	17
Jan. 6, 1897....	16	Chebanse.....	Illinois.....	23
" 12, 1897....	183	Castana.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	17
" 16, 1897....	17	Cisne.....	Illinois.....	20
" 21, 1897....	18	Toulon.....	Illinois.....	20
" 21, 1897....	30	Jersey City.....	New Jersey.....	27
" 25, 1897....	20	Warrensburg.....	Missouri (Dis.).....	15
" 27, 1897....	43	Dallas (Texas).....	Missouri (Dis.).....	21
" 28, 1897....	....	Ballston Spa.....	New York.....	21
" 28, 1897....	1	Fort Monroe (Va.)....	Maryland.....	19
" 29, 1897....	....	Cuba.....	New York.....	25

Total number Camps, 46.

Total number applicants, 1,066.

Charters have been issued to the following Camps since last publication of same :

Date of Issue.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
Aug. 10, 1896....	10	Minneapolis.....	Minnesota	21
" 10, 1896....	11	St. Francis.....	Minnesota	21
" 10, 1896....	50	Conemaugh.....	Pennsylvania	21
" 10, 1896....	100	Wooster	Ohio (Dis.).....	31
" 14, 1896....	63	Grant.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 14, 1896....	197	Alta Vista.....	Kansas.....	15
" 17, 1896....	169	North Platte.....	Nebraska.....	19
" 21, 1896....	11	Somerset.....	Kentucky.....	16
" 28, 1886....	5	Prairieton.....	Indiana.....	17
" 28, 1896....	6	Georgetown	Kentucky.....	19
" 28, 1896....	51	Williamstown.....	Pennsylvania	24
" 31, 1896....	126	Mediapolis	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 31, 1896....	5	Louisville	Kentucky.....	15
Oct. 15, 1896....	43	Greenwood.....	Pennsylvania	18
" 15, 1896....	57	Herndon.....	Pennsylvania	15
" 15, 1896....	62	Tamaqua.....	Pennsylvania	28
" 15, 1896....	73	Ellwood City.....	Pennsylvania	15
" 15, 1896....	223	Pottsville.....	Pennsylvania	27
" 15, 1896....	80	Haverstraw.....	New York.....	33
" 15, 1896....	85	Buffalo.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
" 15, 1896....	31	Racine.....	Wisconsin.....	31
" 20, 1896....	12	Lebanon.....	Kentucky.....	17
" 30, 1896....	2	Girard	Kansas.....	27
" 23, 1896....	70	Evans' Mills.....	New York.....	15
" 24, 1896....	15	Princeville.....	Illinois.....	39
Nov. 2, 1896....	6	Chanute.....	Kansas.....	30
" 2, 1896....	83	Algona.....	Iowa.....	20
" 2, 1896....	157	Winfield.....	Iowa.....	23
" 6, 1896....	11	Sardis.....	Alabama and Tenn....	33
" 16, 1896....	103	Big Rapids.....	Michigan.....	27
" 23, 1896....	2	Elizabeth.....	New Jersey.....	25
" 30, 1896....	8	Poughkeepsie.....	New York.....	33
" 30, 1896....	52	Stella.....	Missouri.....	20
Dec. 11, 1896....	14	Glastonbury.....	Connecticut.....	17
" 14, 1896....	50	Braymer.....	Missouri.....	21
" 26, 1896....	16	Thibodeaux (La.)....	Gulf.....	15
" 28, 1896....	3	Huntington.....	Oregon.....	15
" 31, 1896....	215	Duncan Falls.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	34
" 31, 1896....	51	Biddeford.....	Maine.....	17
Jan. 2, 1897....	105	Belchertown.....	Massachusetts.....	15
" 8, 1897....	54	Rutledge.....	Missouri.....	22
" 8, 1897....	32	Orion.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 12, 1897....	183	Castana.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	17
" 15, 1897....	112	Oxford.....	Massachusetts.....	17
" 23, 1897....	139	Kirwin.....	Kansas.....	23
" 23, 1897....	33	Spring Valley.....	Wisconsin.....	15
" 25, 1897....	20	Warrensburg.....	Missouri (Dis.).....	15
" 27, 1897....	43	Dallas (Texas).....	Missouri (Dis.).....	21
" 27, 1897....	355	Burr Oak.....	Indiana.....	16
" 29, 1897....	19	Brooklyn.....	New York (Dis.).....	39
" 30, 1897....	30	Jersey City.....	New Jersey.....	25

Total number Camps chartered, 51.

Total number mustered, 1,120.

GENERAL ORDERS.

General Orders No. 2, }
Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., April 20, 1897.

I. The announcement is made that the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., September 9th, 10th and 11th. This conclusion was reached by unanimous vote of the Council-in-Chief upon the presentation of the question, after a personal conference with the Commander of Indiana Division and other interested parties. The most flattering assurances are given that the citizens of Indianapolis will leave nothing undone to make our stay in that delightful city most pleasant. Upon the conclusion of preliminary negotiations now pending, a Transportation Committee for this event will be promptly announced.

II. Division Commanders have been elected as follows:

Connecticut Division—W. W. Wheeler, Derby.

Massachusetts Division—Orange H. Cook, Melrose.

Nebraska Division—W. H. Davis, Wilber.

New Jersey Division—Jesse R. Dungan, Somerville.

Rhode Island Division—Charles W. Abbot, jr., Providence, R. I.

The foregoing having filed their bonds, have been duly commissioned.

III. In addition to Division Encampments announced in last General Orders, the following are reported:

New Hampshire—Plymouth, April 23-24.

West Virginia—Wheeling, May 5-6.

Colorado—Colorado Springs, May 11-13.

Maryland—Annapolis, May 11-12.

Kentucky—Lexington, May ———

Minnesota—Princeton, June 8-10.

South Dakota—Redfield, June 9-10.

Pennsylvania—Towanda, June 8-10.

Michigan—Flint, June 15-18.

Oregon—Independence, June 15-18.

Washington—Vancouver, June 17-19.

Indiana—Marion, July 7-9.

IV. In accordance with the action of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, held at Louisville, Ky., the following Committees are appointed:

Committee to Attend National Encampment of the G. A. R.:

Past Commander-in-Chief W. H. Russell, LaCrosse, Kan.

Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

William DeSteele, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Past Division Commander E. W. Hatch, Buffalo, N. Y.

Past Captain Alfred Darte, Commander Department of Pennsylvania, G. A. R., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The Committee to act with a similar Committee of the G. A. R. on monument to the women of the war of 1861-'65, it is deemed wise shall be appointed by mutual selection from the foregoing Committee of five, after having attended the coming Encampment of the G. A. R. This Committee to consist of three, and to be chosen from among their number. It is deemed desirable to adopt this method of appointing this Committee, giving it the opportunity of advising with the similar Committee of the G. A. R. during the Encampment in question.

Committee on Testimonial to Gen. I. N. Walker, Indianapolis, Past Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R. :

Commander R. B. Oglesbee, Indianapolis, Ind.

Quartermaster-General R. Lobenstein, Chicago, Ill.

Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

By the action of the Fourteenth Annual Encampment, a memorial was ordered to be prepared for Past Commander-in-Chief Thomas G. Lawler, of the G. A. R., Rockford, Ill., which has thus far not been provided. The above Committee will, therefore, also assume charge of this matter at this time.

Committee on National Legislation Affecting the Order as a Reserve of the U. S. Army :

Past Commander-in-Chief W. H. Russell, LaCrosse, Kan.

Past Division Commander E. R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.

Charles D. Rooney, Winchester, Mass. (Washington, D. C.)

Commander W. J. Patton, Green Bay, Wis.

Past Division Commander E. H. Milham, St. Paul, Minn.

The Committee on Peace Monuments appointed by action of the Encampment at Knoxville, is reminded that it is continued, as per proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, page 126.

The attention of the members of the foregoing Committees is directed to the conditions prescribed by vote of the Encampment authorizing their appointment, by which service is to be without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief.

V. George Crute, Camp 177, New Carlisle, Ohio Division, was court-martialed on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." Found guilty and the sentence of Dishonorable Discharge approved. Proper note will be made in Black Books.

Abraham L. Erdman, Camp 13, Phila., Penna. Division, was court-martialed on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." Found guilty and the sentence of Dishonorable Discharge approved. Proper record will be made in Black Books.

VI. Charters of Camps have been revoked upon recommendation of Division Commanders as follows :

Kansas Division: Camp No. 7, Bluff City; Camp No. 10, Parkersville; Camp No. 8, Independence; Camp No. 211, Liberty.

Maryland: Camp No. 11, Eastville, Va.; Camp No. 26, Beaufort, S. C.

Indiana Division: Coffin Camp, No. 91, Russiaville.

South Dakota: Camps Nos. 1 (Howard), 3, 5 (Chamberlain), 12, 14, 22, 25, 27, 33, 34, 36, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57.

A number of these Camps have been in arrears for several years, are no loss, having been previously suspended, and are now Constitutionally dropped, others having been organized with corresponding numbers.

VII. Surgeon-General Mabbs and Inspector-General Spink report that a number of Divisions are still delinquent with reports to those respective Departments. Unless such reports are received within reasonable time from the date of this Order, the delinquents will be named and Commanders will be asked to show cause why they should not be removed.

VIII. Major-General Grenville M. Dodge, Grand Marshal of the Grant Monument Inaugural Parade, honored this organization with an invitation to participate in the ceremonies incident to the dedication ceremonies on April 27th, in New York City. The Division of New York having already taken official cognizance of this important event, Commander A. G. Courtney perfected all arrangements for the occasion. It was his pleasure to place Senior Vice-Division Commander E. W. Estes in command, to whom the membership of the Divisions adjacent were directed to report.

The Commander-in-Chief accepted the tender of Camp No. 10, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island Division, as an escort.

IX. Complaint is made that Past Division Commanders in a number of instances do not receive General Orders. Division Commanders are again reminded that it is their duty to promulgate the same to all Past Division Commanders in good standing.

X. Division Commanders and Chaplains will note that Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. Somerville Light has changed his residence to Bluffton, Ind.

XI. It will be seen that for September quarter 32,046 members were reported as in good standing in the various Camps. For December quarter there were reported 31,953 in good standing, a loss of only 93 members. This we consider quite encouraging, for it must be remembered that the last report is for the period during which the greatest political campaign in the history of the Nation was waged, when interest in the Order was hard to maintain, and the organization of new Camps and mustering of recruits in the Camps in existence was greatly interfered with. We report a gain of 39 Camps for the last quarter, and we are firmly of the belief that our Order has reached the lowest mark, and from now on we will recover our lost ground and gain substantially. We earnestly appeal to the individual membership to assist us in the work of recruiting and placing the Order in the best possible condition.

XII. Once more our thoughts go out from the living to the noble dead who answered that call to arms when the life of the Nation was assailed. From the sadness of our recollections there is room for joy that to us, the descendants of the men who rallied to the call of the martyred Lincoln, comes the pleasant duty of aiding the surviving veterans in strewing fragrant blossoms over the mounds that mark the sacrifices of the dreadful days of 1861-'65.

While in the performance of this sacred duty, let no loyal Son be found so forgetful as to profane the day in worldly amusement. Let our ranks be represented by every Son now enrolled, and in the assistance which we owe to the Comrades of the G. A. R. let us not give grudgingly our services, but with a loyalty and frankness which should characterize the sons of soldiers. Let every Camp volunteer to the nearest Post to share in the labors incident to the observance of Memorial Day, and thus substantially prove our devotion to the principles upon which we are founded.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :



Adjutant-General.

Applications for Camp Charters have been approved since January 31, as follows :

Date.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Applicants.
Feb. 1.....	59	Greenfield.....	Iowa (Dis).....	31
" 5.....	17	Summit Hill.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 8.....	238	Gravity.....	Iowa (Dis).....	44
" 13.....	72	South Omaha.....	Nebraska (Dis).....	26
" 15.....	10	Arlington.....	(Okla) Kansas.....	15
" 15.....	7	Dunlap.....	Kansas.....	21
" 17.....	356	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	17
" 18.....	8	Harvard.....	Michigan.....	17
" 19.....	117	North Easton.....	Massachusetts.....	17
" 19.....	...	Bradford.....	Vermont.....	23
" 27.....	39	Patton.....	Pennsylvania.....	15
" 27.....	34	Boscobel.....	Wisconsin.....	50
Mar. 1.....	...	Hudson.....	Michigan.....	25
" 1.....	19	Harrisburg.....	Illinois.....	24
" 2.....	8	Contoocook.....	New Hampshire.....	18
" 2.....	20	Pana.....	Illinois.....	27
" 4.....	36	Kanhanna.....	Wisconsin.....	21
" 4.....	38	Diamond Bluff.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 8.....	...	Lexington.....	Kentucky.....	21
" 12.....	...	Louisville.....	Kentucky.....	18
" 12.....	39	New Lisbon.....	Wisconsin.....	27
" 12.....	2	Hebron.....	Nebraska.....	20
" 12.....	3	Fairmont.....	Nebraska.....	48
" 13.....	135	Concord.....	Massachusetts.....	28
" 13.....	54	Fryeburg.....	Maine.....	17
" 22.....	10	Keene.....	New Hampshire.....	26
" 22.....	16	Maple Plain.....	Minnesota (Dis).....	29
" 22.....	54	New York.....	Iowa (Dis).....	26
" 22.....	60	Livermore.....	Iowa (Dis).....	19
" 25.....	85	Macomb.....	Illinois.....	87
" 25.....	6	Bangor.....	Michigan.....	40
" 25.....	55	Fairview.....	Pennsylvania.....	30
" 29.....	24	South Chicago.....	Illinois.....	33
" 29.....	...	Brooks.....	Maine.....	52
" 29.....	...	Canton.....	South Dakota.....	21
" 29.....	...	South Haven.....	Michigan.....	58
" 29.....	58	Friedens'.....	Pennsylvania.....	23
" 29.....	...	Marietta.....	Ohio.....	21
" 29.....	...	New London.....	Ohio.....	20

Total number Camps, 39.

Total number applicants, 1093.

Charters have been issued as follows since January 30 :

Date.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
Feb. 1.....	59	Greenfield	Iowa (Dis).....	31
" 1.....	17	Cisne.....	Illinois.....	18
" 3.....	18	Toulon.....	Illinois.....	15
" 4.....	28	Richmond	Indiana.....	32
" 4.....	354	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	18
" 8.....	228	Gravity.....	Iowa (Dis).....	44
" 8.....	16	Chebanse.....	Illinois.....	23
" 13.....	72	South Omaha.....	Nebraska.....	26
" 13.....	41	Coer d'Alene, Ida.....	Washington	17
" 18.....	17	Summit Hill.....	Pennsylvania.....	18
" 18.....	49	Ballston Spa.....	New York.....	16
" 18.....	61	Cuba.....	New York.....	21
" 27.....	7	Sequatchie, Tenn.....	Alabama and Tenn....	44
Mar. 8.....	356	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	32
" 15.....	7	Dunlap.....	Kansas.....	16
" 15.....	8	Contoocook.....	New Hampshire.....	22
" 16.....	117	North Easton.....	Massachusetts.....	19
" 22.....	16	Maple Plain.....	Minnesota (Dis).....	29
" 22.....	54	New York.....	Iowa (Dis).....	26
" 22.....	60	Livermore.....	Iowa (Dis).....	19
" 24.....	8	Harvard.....	Michigan.....	17
" 25.....	34	Boscobel.....	Wisconsin.....	42
" 25.....	36	Kanhanna.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 25.....	2	Hebron.....	Nebraska.....	20
" 25.....	3	Fairmont.....	Nebraska.....	43
" 29.....	54	Fryeburg.....	Maine.....	15
" 29.....	39	New Lisbon.....	Wisconsin.....	17
" 29.....	20	Pana.....	Illinois.....	43

Total number Camps mustered, 28.

Total number charter members mustered, 701.

General Orders No. 3, }
 Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., July 17, 1897.

I. Since the promulgation of the last General Orders, Division Commanders have been elected as follows:

Alabama and Tennessee.—L. W. Freidman, Birmingham, Alabama.
 California and H. I.—Charles L. Pierce, 13 Pine St., San Francisco, California.
 Colorado.—Harlin Thomas, McPhee Building, Denver.
 Gulf.—H. W. Robinson, 316 Hennen Building, New Orleans, La.
 Illinois.—C. R. Clarke, Rockford.
 Indiana.—R. S. Thompson, Rising Sun.
 Iowa.—A. T. Wilson, Cedar Rapids.
 Kansas.—W. P. Feder, Great Bend.
 Kentucky.—T. Z. Morrow, Jr., Somerset.
 Maine.—Arthur M. Soule, 453½ Congress Street, Portland.
 Maryland.—Edw. K. DePuy, 626 13th St. N. E., Washington, D. C.
 Michigan.—H. E. Cowdin, Rockford.
 Minnesota.—Henry Stodieck, Jr., 312 First Ave., S. Minneapolis.
 Missouri.—E. E. Schoening, 2341 Clark Ave., St. Louis.
 New Hampshire.—Walter S. Willey, Somersworth.
 New York.—John M. Diven, Elmira.
 Ohio.—A. W. Jones, Youngstown.
 Oregon.—L. W. Oren, Corvallis.
 Pennsylvania.—Wildun Scott, Milton.
 South Dakota.—R. A. Courtney, Okobojo.
 Vermont.—William W. Lapoint, Barre.
 West Virginia.—H. W. Thurber, 149 Market Street, Wheeling.
 Wisconsin.—Charles C. Townsend, Benton.

II. The attention of new Division Commanders is called to paragraph IX of General Orders No. 7, series of 1896, relative to use of badge in preference to the Coat of Arms on Division orders and circulars. It is hoped reference will not be required to be again made to this subject. Attention is also directed to paragraph V of General Orders No. 5, same series, which contains explicit directions regarding the manner of making remittances and which must be adhered to.

III. Division Commanders are directed to see that certificates of elections are promptly forwarded to these headquarters on Forms 49 and 50. The bonds of Division Commanders must be on the regular blank prepared for that purpose, Form 19 special.

IV. The Password and Countersign for the term beginning with July 1st have been promulgated to all Divisions.

V. Division Commanders are particularly urged to have consolidated Adjutant's and Quartermaster's reports for the quarter ending June 30th forwarded promptly. The Adjutant-General must be in position to consolidate his returns not later than August 1st.

The Inspector-General reports several Divisions as still delinquent although they have been repeatedly urged to forward reports.

It should not be necessary to again remind Divisions that failure to forward these reports will deprive them of representation in the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

VI. D. W. Dwire, lately serving as Commander of the Oregon Division, having removed from that Division without having made application for or receiving leave of absence, and having remained absent, cannot be accredited as a Past Division Commander.

VII. The following Committee on Transportation for the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, at Indianapolis, September 9th to 11th, inclusive, is announced :

Past Grand Division Commander R. M. J. Reed, Chairman, 32 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia.

Quartermaster-General R. Loebenstein, 84 LaSalle Street, Chicago.

Past Division Commander George R. Cox, 48 State Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Past Division Commander E. R. Carter, 956 Broad Street, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Division Commander Harlan Thomas, McPhee Building, Denver, Colorado.

This committee makes the preliminary announcement of the following rate arrangements : The Trunk Line Association (covering territory from Buffalo, Pittsburg and east thereof, not including New England,) and the New England Passenger Association, have made rates of one and one-third fare on the certificate plan. The Central Passenger Association has made a rate of one fare for the round trip, as have also the following roads in the territory of the Western Passenger Association :

A., T. & S. F. Railway.—From points in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, including Superior, Nebraska. Sell for trains arriving in Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 17th.

B., C. R. & N. Railway.—From all points. Sell for trains arriving Peoria or Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

Chicago & Alton.—Illinois and Missouri points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 15th.

C., B. & N. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., B. & Q. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., M. & St. P. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., R. I. & Pac.—Missouri River and east thereof and Kansas and Nebraska points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 15th and 16th.

C., St. P., M. & O. Railway.—All points. Sell for trains arriving in Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 18th.

"Burlington Lines" in Missouri.—All points. Sell for trains reaching St. Louis, Peoria or Chicago, Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Illinois Central.—Points in Illinois north of Cairo and all points in Iowa. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Iowa Central.—All points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Jacksonville & St. Louis.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Mo. Pac. Railway.—All points except Colorado. Sell for trains arriving in St. Louis Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

St. L. & S. F. Railway.—All points. Sell for trains arriving in St. Louis Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Sioux City & Pac. Railway.—Details later.

F., E. & M. V. R. R.—Details later.

Wabash R. R.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Wisconsin Central.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

B. & Mo. River in Nebraska.—Points in Kansas and Nebraska. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th; return limit Sept. 17th.

St. J. & G. I. Railway.—Points in Kansas and Nebraska. Sell Sept. 7th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R.—One fare, all points. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Union Pacific System.—One fare, Kansas and Nebraska points. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th.

Additional announcements will be made in subsequent General Orders.

VIII. Division Commanders are requested to forward at once to Hon. L. A. Thurston, care Hawaiian Legation, Washington, D. C., a copy of the Roster of Camps in their respective Divisions.

IX. Upon recommendation of Division Commanders the following Camp Charters have been revoked:

New York Division: Nos. 27, Dover Plains; 44, Canastota; 46, Marathon; 62, LeRoy; 73, New Bremen; 76, Oneida; 84, Dickinson Centre; 92, Hornelsville; 94, Ellenville; 145, Rockland; 165, Watertown; 181, Bolivar; 195, Wayland; 213 Binghamton.

Iowa Division: Nos. 23, Keswick; 24, Britt; 26, Bedford; 27, Sioux Rapids; 37, Washington; 80, Perry; 116, Rockwell City; 135, Humbolt; 200, Fruitland; 213, Shelby; 271, Hesper; 274, Moulton; 275, Ladora; 286, Muscative; 289, Milton.

This also applies to a number of dormant Camps in the Divisions of Kansas and Indiana, as reported March 31, 1897.

X. Division Commanders are reminded that all orders must be promulgated.

XI. Past Division Commanders will be furnished with General Orders from Division Headquarters.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, }
 84 La Salle St., Room 7, }
 CHICAGO, ILL., May 1st, 1897. }

J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to submit my report for the quarter ending March 31st, 1897:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Dr.		Cr.	
Cash on hand, as per last report.....	\$ 265 84	Paid for:	
Received for supplies.....	1107 42	Supplies (including cost of shipping)	\$ 724 28
Received for P. C. tax.....	1375 26	General expenses.....	9 75
Received for charter fees..	99 00	Office expenses.....	345 64
		General orders.....	89 86
		15th National Encampment	130 00
		Salaries.....	875 00
		Traveling expenses.....	137 65
		Miscellaneous	4 17
		Cash on hand.....	531 17
	<u>\$2847 52</u>		<u>\$2847 52</u>

March 31st, 1897. Supplies on hand, as per inventory.....\$1432 66

GENERAL ACCOUNT, MARCH 31st, 1897.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Furniture.....	\$ 594 99	A. P. Davis.....	\$ 152 70
Supplies.....	1432 66	Cameron, Amberg & Co...	25 50
Cash	531 17	Various Divisions.....	1 62
Various Divisions.....	35 29	Surplus	2414 29
	<u>\$2594 11</u>		<u>\$2594 11</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS, MARCH 31st, 1897.

LOSSES.		GAINS.	
General orders.....	\$ 89 86	Charter fees.....	\$ 99 00
Salaries.....	875 00	P. C. tax.....	1374 53
Traveling expenses.....	137 65	Supplies	227 40
Office expenses.....	345 64		
General expenses.....	9 75		
15th National Encampment	130 00		
Balance (net gain).....	113 03		
	<u>\$1700 93</u>		<u>\$1700 93</u>

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows :

Date Approval.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Applicants.
Apr. 3, 1897....	17	Hamilton.....	Michigan.....	20
" 5, 1897....	31	Iowa City.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 8, 1897....	2	Baptist Church, Va. .	Maryland.....	15
" 8, 1897....	2	Elizabeth City, N. C..	Maryland.....	16
" 10, 1897....	59	Fairfield.....	Pennsylvania.....	35
" 12, 1897....	....	East Jordan.....	Michigan.....	35
" 12, 1897....	146	Allegan.....	Michigan.....	31
" 13, 1897....	141	Nantucket.....	Massachusetts.....	20
" 15, 1897....	....	Terre Haute.....	Illinois.....	20
" 17, 1897....	....	Dunkirk.....	New York.....	38
" 19, 1897....	357	Mier.....	Indiana.....	19
" 19, 1897....	....	Elgin.....	Illinois.....	45
" 19, 1897....	124	Polo.....	Illinois (Dis.).....	26
" 22, 1897....	358	Parragan.....	Indiana.....	25
" 24, 1897....	15	Henderson.....	Kentucky.....	19
" 24, 1897....	170	Lebanon.....	Nebraska (Dis.).....	25
" 26, 1897....	18	Newark.....	New Jersey.....	16
" 26, 1897....	8	Huntington.....	Indiana.....	19
" 28, 1897....	62	Ireton.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	18
" 28, 1897....	78	Cresco.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	22
" 30, 1897....	14	Palco.....	Kansas.....	16
May 4, 1897....	61	David.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 4, 1897....	69	Mitchell.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	19
" 4, 1897....	64	Big Run.....	Pennsylvania.....	48
" 6, 1897....	359	Avon.....	Indiana.....	21
" 7, 1897....	7	Pennville.....	Indiana.....	24
" 10, 1897....	16	Elizabethtown.....	Kentucky (Dis.).....	15
" 13, 1897....	....	Rochester.....	Michigan.....	17
" 14, 1897....	....	Millington.....	Michigan.....	15
" 14, 1897....	12	Green Bay.....	Wisconsin.....	20
" 14, 1897....	1	Pawnee Rock.....	Kansas.....	21
" 14, 1897....	4	Jennings (Okla.).....	Kansas.....	16
" 17, 1897....	11	Centre Sandwich.....	New Hampshire.....	24
" 19, 1897....	56	Yarmouth.....	Maine.....	23
" 20, 1897....	59	East Wilton.....	Maine.....	22
" 20, 1897....	173	Patchgue.....	New York.....	20
" 22, 1897....	40	Berlin.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	28
" 22, 1897....	41	East Troy.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	18
" 24, 1897....	44	Elizabethtown.....	New York.....	26
" 24, 1897....	88	Palestine.....	Illinois.....	17
" 24, 1897....	85	East Smithfield.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 26, 1897....	....	Au Sable.....	Michigan.....	22
" 26, 1897....	4	Cripple Creek.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	17
" 26, 1897....	13	Denver.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	37
" 27, 1897....	....	Pan-Pan.....	Michigan.....	40
" 28, 1897....	18	Batavia.....	New York.....	29
June 1, 1897....	....	Old Town.....	Maine.....	32
" 1, 1897....	17	Salinas City.....	California (Dis.).....	18
" 2, 1897....	9	Tallapoosa (Ga.).....	Ala. and Tenn. (Dis.).....	16
" 4, 1897....	70	Bloomfield.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 7, 1897....	191	Russell.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	25
" 7, 1897....	....	Isadora.....	Missouri.....	28
" 10, 1897....	9	Kalispell (Mon.).....	Washington (Dis.).....	15
" 10, 1897....	27	Cooperstown.....	New York (Dis.).....	24
" 11, 1897....	..	Wellsburg.....	West Virginia.....	40
" 11, 1897....	5	Kasota.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	29

APPLICATIONS FOR CHARTERS—Continued.

June 11, 1897....	18	Faribault.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	23
" 14, 1897....	....	Alexandria.....	South Dakota.....	17
" 15, 1897....	124	Onawa.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	33
" 15, 1897....	194	Pittston.....	Pennsylvania.....	21
" 16, 1897....	27	Hildalgo.....	Illinois.....	19
" 21, 1897....	....	Cape Girardeau.....	Missouri.....	22
" 21, 1897....	46	Belmont.....	New York (Dis.).....	20
" 21, 1897....	47	Sloatsburg.....	New York.....	20
" 21, 1897....	....	Gardiner.....	Maine.....	33
" 22, 1897....	510	Pierpont.....	Ohio.....	24
" 25, 1897....	360	Windfall.....	Indiana.....	16
" 25, 1897....	8	Valley City, N. D.....	South Dakota (Dis.)..	23
" 28, 1897....	....	Wessington Springs...	South Dakota.....	23
" 28, 1897....	....	Cornell.....	Illinois.....	15
" 30, 1897....	....	Mehama.....	Oregon.....	22
" 30, 1897....	32	Columbus.....	Indiana.....	55
July 3, 1897....	5	Moresano.....	Washington.....	19
" 3, 1897....	....	West Bend.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 6, 1897....	....	Bancroft.....	Michigan.....	22
" 6, 1897....	....	Monroe.....	Maine.....	27
" 6, 1897....	....	Washburne.....	South Dakota.....	15
" 6, 1897....	....	Ashland.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 12, 1897....	51	Mechanicsville.....	New York.....	29
" 12, 1897....	....	Howard City.....	Michigan.....	42
" 12, 1897....	....	Pueblo.....	Colorado.....	16

Total number applications for Camp charters, 82.

Total number applicants, 1,929.

The following Camps, showing number of members, have been mustered and chartered since last announcement :

Date of Issue.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
April 3, 1897....	6	Bangor	Michigan	36
" 5, 1897....	10	Keene	New Hampshire.....	21
" 5, 1897....	31	Iowa City	Iowa	15
" 5, 1897....	135	Concord	Massachusetts.....	38
" 8, 1897....	1	Phœbus (Ft. Monroe, Va.)	Maryland	15
" 9, 1897....	39	Patton	Pennsylvania	15
" 9, 1897....	19	Harrisburg	Illinois	20
" 9, 1897....	24	South Chicago	Illinois	30
" 19, 1897....	124	Polo	Illinois (Dis.)	26
" 20, 1897....	55	Fairview	Pennsylvania	24
" 21, 1897....	85	Macomb	Illinois	58
" 22, 1897....	508	New London	Ohio	20
" 24, 1897....	170	Lebanon	Nebraska (Dis.)	25
" 26, 1897....	38	Diamond Bluff	Wisconsin	17
" 28, 1897....	17	Hamilton	Michigan	20
" 28, 1897....	2	South Haven	Michigan	58
" 28, 1897....	62	Ireton	Iowa (Dis.)	18
" 28, 1897....	78	Cresco	Iowa (Dis.)	22
" 29, 1897....	10	Arlington (Okla.)	Kansas	19
" 29, 1897....	30	Terre Haute	Illinois	20
" 29, 1897....	31	Elgin	Illinois	74
" 30, 1897....	58	Frieden's	Pennsylvania	20
" 30, 1897....	59	Fairfield	Pennsylvania	19
May 3, 1897....	3	Canton	South Dakota	20
" 4, 1897....	61	David	Iowa (Dis.)	20
" 4, 1897....	69	Mitchell	Iowa (Dis.)	19
" 5, 1897....	55	Brooks	Maine	25
" 5, 1897....	509	Marietta	Ohio	15
" 5, 1897....	141	Nantucket	Massachusetts.....	20
" 7, 1897....	146	Allegan	Michigan	32
" 10, 1897....	16	Elizabethtown	Kentucky (Dis.)	15
" 11, 1897....	4	Lexington	Kentucky	24
" 11, 1897....	14	Louisville	Kentucky	20
" 12, 1897....	8	Huntington	Indiana	20
" 13, 1897....	357	Mier	Indiana	17
" 13, 1897....	358	Parragan	Indiana	24
" 14, 1897....	12	Green Bay	Wisconsin (Dis.)	20
" 14, 1897....	24	Dunkirk	New York	40
" 17, 1897....	2	Baptist Rock (Va.)	Maryland	15
" 17, 1897....	2	Elizabeth City (N. C.)	Maryland	15
" 22, 1897....	40	Berlin	Wisconsin (Dis.)	28
" 22, 1897....	41	East Troy	Wisconsin (Dis.)	18
" 24, 1897....	64	Big Run	Pennsylvania	22
" 24, 1897....	14	Palco	Kansas	16
" 24, 1897....	18	Newark	New Jersey	17
" 26, 1897....	4	Cripple Creek	Colorado (Dis.)	17
" 26, 1897....	13	Denver	Colorado (Dis.)	37
" 31, 1897....	15	Henderson	Kentucky	13
June 1, 1897....	17	Salinas City	Cal. and H. I. (Dis.) ..	18
" 2, 1897....	56	Yarmouth	Maine	35
" 2, 1897....	59	East Wilton	Maine	26
" 2, 1897....	9	Tallapoosa (Ga.)	Ala. and Tenn. (Dis.) ..	16
" 4, 1897....	70	Bloomfield	Iowa (Dis.)	20
" 11, 1897....	1	Pawnee Rock	Kansas	18
" 11, 1897....	4	Jennings (Okla.)	Kansas	16

CAMPS MUSTERED—Continued.

June 11, 1897....	191	Russell	Iowa (Dis.).....	25
" 11, 1897....	9	Kalispell (Mont.).....	Washington (Dis.)....	15
" 11, 1897....	27	Cooperstown.....	New York (Dis.).....	24
" 11, 1897....	5	Kasata.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	29
" 11, 1897....	18	Faribault	Minnesota (Dis.).....	23
" 12, 1897....	44	Elizabethtown	New York.....	37
" 12, 1897....	173	Patchogue.....	New York.....	15
" 14, 1897....	25	East Jordan.....	Michigan.....	38
" 14, 1897....	234	Rochester.....	Michigan.....	19
" 14, 1897....	235	Millington.....	Michigan.....	16
" 15, 1897....	124	Onawa	Iowa (Dis.).....	33
" 16, 1897....	88	Palestine	Illinois	20
" 16, 1897....	7	Pennville.....	Indiana.....	20
" 17, 1897....	11	Centre Sandwich.....	New Hampshire.....	17
" 18, 1897....	18	Batavia	New York.....	29
" 21, 1897....	46	Belmont.	New York (Dis.).....	20
" 21, 1897....	359	Avon	Indiana	15
" 25, 1897....	194	Pittston	Pennsylvania	25
" 25, 1897....	8	Valley City (N. D.)....	South Dakota (Dis.)..	23
" 26, 1897....	24	Bradford.....	Vermont	24
" 28, 1897....	55	Isadora.....	Missouri	26
July 6, 1897....	14	Cape Girardeau.....	Missouri.....	23
" 6, 1897....	109	Au Sable	Michigan.....	16
" 12, 1897....	27	Hidalgo.....	Illinois	16

Total number Camps chartered, 79.

Total number of members mustered, 1,858.

General Orders No. 4, }
 Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., August 9, 1897.

I. The Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is hereby ordered to convene at Indianapolis, at nine o'clock A. M., September 9th, 1897. Headquarters will be established at the Denison Hotel, where the members of the Council-in-Chief are directed to assemble at eight o'clock P. M., September 8th, 1897.

II. The Chairman of the Transportation Committee submits the following information :

Railroad rates, for round trip, as follows :

New England Passenger Association—Territory: New England States. Fare, one and a third on Certificate.

Trunk Line Association—Territory : Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Dunkirk and Salamanca, N. Y.; Erie and Pittsburg, Pa.; Bellaire, Ohio; Wheeling, Parkersburg and Huntingdon, W. Va., and points east thereof, except New England. Fare and a third on Certificate.

Central Passenger Association—Territory : Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and portions of Pennsylvania and New York. One first-class fare for round trip.

Western Passenger Association, one first-class fare for round trip.

Southern Passenger Association—Territory : South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers and east of the Mississippi River. One fare and a third on Certificate.

The official train, with the Commander-in-Chief and Staff and the Past Officers and delegates of Pennsylvania, will leave over the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. from 24th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, at 12.20 P. M., on Tuesday, September 7th, 1897. The Commander-in-Chief cordially invites and it is his wish to have the officers and delegates from New England, New York, New Jersey and Maryland accompany him on this train, and pleasant and comfortable arrangements will be provided for all who will notify the Chairman of the Committee not later than September 1st.

Delegates from New England and New York will leave New York City, over the Jersey Central and Reading R. R., at 10.00 A. M. on morning of September 7th, reaching Philadelphia in time for the official train.

The Chairman of the Transportation Committee will be very glad to look after the comfort of any of the brothers who will notify him of their coming, and to provide accommodations on the sleepers.

Delegates using the Certificate plan will pay full fare going and get a Certificate filled in on one side by the agent of whom the ticket is purchased. If, however, the ticket agent at a local station is not supplied with Certificates and through tickets to the place of meeting, he can inform the delegate of the nearest important station where they can be obtained. In such case the delegate should purchase a local ticket to such station and there take up his Certificate and through ticket to Indianapolis. Tickets for going passage will be sold only within three days (not including Sunday) prior to the date of the meeting. Have your Certificate signed by Quartermaster-General Loebenstein as soon as you reach Indianapolis so that they can be vised by special agent of the R. R. On presentation of the Certificate, duly filled on both sides, to the ticket agent at Indianapolis within three days after adjournment (Sunday excepted) the holder will be furnished return ticket for one-third regular fare. No refund fare will be made on account of any person failing to obtain a Certificate. All persons intending to go by the official train, whether from Pennsy'vania, New Jersey, New York, New England or Maryland, are requested to at once notify Major R. M. J. Reed, No. 32 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., who will be glad to make arrangements for their accommodation and comfort.

The Chicago Great Western Railway makes a one fare rate from all points on its lines, selling September 7th and 8th; return limit, September 16th.

The Chicago and N. W. Railway makes a one fare rate from all points on its lines, selling September 7th, 8th and 9th; return limit, September 16th.

The General Passenger Agent of the Queen and Crescent Route (Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific Railway Co.) advises Brother Carter as follows:

"Your letter of 20th instant reached me this morning. I am advised that for 50 is of Veterans' meeting at Indianapolis the lines from Cincinnati have made rate of one far for round trip, tickets to be sold September 8th and 9th, good returning until 15th. We will make rate from Chattanooga for this occasion on same basis \$12.80 for round trip. From Harriman Junction we will make rate of \$10.40, selling tickets September 8th and 9th, good returning to include the 15th. I have advised Mr. Joseph Richardson, Chairman Southern Passenger Association, that we will take this action, requesting that similar rate be made from territory of Southeastern Passenger Association. Will you have the kindness to advise me from what points in the South there will be a movement of Sons of Veterans for Indianapolis, and will you give us your assistance in controlling business for our line? An early reply will be appreciated."

Information not covered by this and the preceding General Orders, can be obtained by addressing the members of the Transportation Committee, as announced in General Orders No. 3.

III. The Local Committee for the entertainment of the delegates and members of the Encampment, we are advised, are actively at work

perfecting their arrangements and bespeak for their guests a most enjoyable reception.

The hotel rates, we are advised, will be \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50 per day, although the Committee have not submitted the list of names of the respective hotels.

Through the Quartermaster-General we learn that the rates at the Denison Hotel will be as follows: Two persons occupying room jointly, \$2.50 per day each; one person to room, \$3.00 per day; rooms with bath, \$3.50 per day each. Delegations of from 18 to 25 persons can get entire suites, two beds to a room, with three baths in the suite, at the \$2.50 rate.

Communications for hotel accommodations should be addressed to Brother S. S. Mullen, Adjutant Indiana Division, Lombard Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

IV. Since the promulgation of the last General Orders the Washington Division (then reported delinquent) has made report for the March quarter, with 636 members in good standing, as against 678 members the preceding quarter.

V. After the Grand Army of the Republic had been organized, about the same length of time or period of years that now marks the existence of the Sons of Veterans, a project was inaugurated, which with the individual efforts and labors of many of those active in the work of that Order, largely was the means of bringing about results that they now show for that splendid organization, especially in relation to its membership.

We have the same source and vital force enlisted in our behalf and at work for us that so very materially aided in bringing about the success of the Grand Army of the Republic from the period when it was at a standstill.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C., whose excellent work in our behalf for some time past, in the organization of new Camps, as many Division Commanders can testify, has again come to our assistance in a most substantial and worthy manner, placing us under greater obligations for its excellent aid.

With the object of inciting a new interest in our Order, and arousing sentiment and opinion in our favor among those with whom its effect cannot but be most beneficial, we hope to consummate in the very near future an arrangement whereby THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will receive direct at their office applications for charters for Camps.

IV. In the court martial of George E. Marsh, Camp 211, Nodaway, Iowa, who was found guilty of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, the proceedings, findings and sentence have been approved and the sentence ordered carried into effect.

VII. Upon recommendation of the Division Commander the charters of Camp No. 7, at Morristown, and Camp No. 3, at Newark, both of the New Jersey Division, have been revoked and are hereby declared forfeited.

VIII. In promulgating to the Order these concluding General Orders, the Commander-in-Chief embraces the opportunity to express his sincere thanks to all the loyal members of the Order for their active

co-operation and encouragement. Not a single discordant incident has arisen during the year to mar the pleasant official intercourse between the several Divisions and the Commander-in-Chief. The officers and staff have vied with each other in their endeavors to execute the work allotted to them.

With this satisfactory condition existing we may well thank Him above, who has watched over the destiny of our great country, and implore His blessings for the future.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Hammer". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Adjutant-General.

OFFICIAL CIRCULARS.

INSPE TOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Circular No. 1.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., *October 24, 1896.*

The following are the assignments for Assistant Inspectors-General to inspect Headquarters of the several Divisions :

DIVISION.	ASST. INSPECTOR-GEN'L.	RANK.	ADDRESS.
Ala. and Tenn.	R. M. Buckley	Jr. Vice Com.-in-Chief..	541 Court Pl., Louisville, Ky.
California.....	Frank C. Shipley.....	Past Div. Commander...	Oakland, Cal.
Colorado.....	C. Borin.....	Council-in-Chief.....	Oberlin, Kan.
Connecticut.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Gulf.....	James Lewis, jr.....	Past Captain.....	New Orleans, La.
Illinois.....	F. C. Stillson.....	Past Inspector-General..	Battle Creek, Mich.
Indiana.....	Dan S. Gardner, M. D.	Past Surgeon-General...	Massillon, O.
Iowa.....	R. Lobenstein.....	Quartermaster-General.	Chicago, Ill.
Kansas.....	J. H. Heine.....	Council-in-Chief.....	Hooper, Neb.
Kentucky.....	D. Q. Morrow.....	Division Commander...	Hillshoro, Mich.
Maine.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Maryland.....	James Lewis Rake....	Commander-in-Chief.....	Reading, Pa.
Massachusetts.	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Michigan.....	Rev. Somerville Light.	Chaplain-in-Chief.....	Wabash, Ind.
Minnesota.....	Leo W. Kennedy.....	Sr. Vice Com.-in-Chief..	City Hall, Denver, Col.
Missouri.....	John Redmond.....	Judge Advocate-Gen'l..	Burlington, Kan.
Nebraska.....	W. H. Russell.....	Past Com.-in-Chief.....	LaCrosse, Kan.
N. Hampshire.	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General.....	Providence, R. I.
New Jersey.....	E. W. Alexander.....	Personal Aide.....	Reading, Pa.
New York.....	Wm. B. McNulty.....	Past Div. Commander...	1025 Arch St., Phila., Pa.
Ohio.....	Maj. R. M. J. Reed....	Past Grand Div. Com....	1111 Arch St., Phila., Pa.
Oregon.....	E. Weldon Young.....	Past Surgeon-General...	Seattle, Wash.
Pennsylvania..	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Rhode Island..	George E. Cox.....	Division Commander...	Hartford, Conn.
South Dakota..	F. A. Burdick.....	Inspector	White, S. D.
Vermont.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Washington....	D. M. Dwire.....	Division Commander....	Salem, Ore.
West Virginia..	F. W. Myers.....	Council-in-Chief.....	Parkersburg.
Wisconsin.....	Dr. J. A. Mabbs.....	Surgeon-General.....	Holland, Mich.

Actual expenses incurred by Assistant Inspectors-General will be borne by the Divisions inspected.

Assistant-Inspectors General will practice rigid economy in the performance of their duties, and they will immediately upon receipt of this order arrange with the respective Division Commanders satisfactory dates, reporting the same immediately to Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Box 1310, Providence, R. I.

The Inspector-General, assisted by Past Commander-in-Chief Louis M. Wagner, will inspect Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters, comprising the Departments of the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General.

The Commander-in-Chief, assisted by the Adjutant-General, will inspect the Quartermaster-General's Department.

All inspections will have to be made prior to December 1st, as provided for in the C., R. and R.

ARTHUR B. SPINK,
Inspector-General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }
READING, PA., *October 27, 1896.*

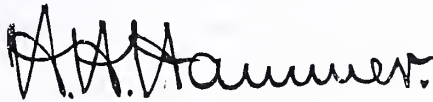
The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated.

Any vacancies occurring will be supplied by the Inspector-General, who should be consulted upon all matters directly affecting inspections.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Hammer". The signature is stylized with a large, prominent "H" and "A".

Adjutant-General.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Circular No. 2.

WABASH, IND., *January 4, 1897.**Brothers of our Noble Order :*

The Wheel of the Year has nearly completed another revolution and we are within finger tips of one of the charm days in the calendar of our Order, viz.: Lincoln, or Union Defenders' Day. This is a great day, because it is the anniversary of a great birth ; a great day, because of what has come to us as a nation and people through that birth ; a great day to all Young Americans, because it holds up before them, in that character, a striking illustration of the possibilities of American Manhood in this land of freedom and equality. Abraham Lincoln ! His biography is written in blood and tears ; uncounted millions arise and call him blessed ; a redeemed and re-united republic is his monument. History embalms the name of Richard, the Lion-hearted ; here too, our martyr finds royal sepulture, as Lincoln, the tender hearted. He was brave. While assassins swarmed in Washington, he went everywhere, without guard or arms. He was magnanimous. He harbored no grudge, nursed no grievance, was quick to forgive and was anxious for reconciliation. Hear him appealing to the South : " We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained it must not break the bond of our affection. The mystic chord of memory, stretching from every patriot grave to every heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when touched again, as it surely will be, by the better angels of our nature."

He was compassionate. With what joy he brought liberty to the enslaved. He was forgiving. In this respect he was strikingly suggestive of the Saviour.

He was great. Time will but augment the greatness of his name and fame. Perhaps a greater man never ruled in this or any other nation.

He was good and pure and incorruptible. He was a patriot ; he loved his country ; he poured out his soul unto death for it.

He was human, and thus touched the chord that makes the world akin.

"No Cæsar he whom we lament,
A man without a precedent,
Sent, it would seem, to do
His work, and perish, too."

But the day is even nearer and dearer to us as Sons of Veterans, when we pause and think of the sacrifices of our worthy sires, living and dead, who were associated, in the dark days gone by, with this brave, magnanimous, compassionate, immortal man. In justice to these brave men, we should not overlook the fact that, without them, this man, whose history is written, whose praises are everywhere sung, and to whom monuments have been reared, could never have preserved the Union and maintained our glorious American Liberty. They saved to us, and for us, this lovely land, these benign institutions; they are ours; ours to enjoy, ours to preserve, ours to transmit. This gem of the government of the globe is in our care; the heroes placed it there. Ought we not perpetuate their memory? They suffered for us many days of weariness and pain; and shall not we spend at least one or two of the three hundred and sixty-five in respect to their memory? Can we be true to our manhood and withhold such service? It is only doing unto others as we would that they should do unto us; for there is an inherent desire in every soul to be remembered. What more cruel than to be forgotten by our friends and comrades; our names and deeds to find no mention?

The mariner flings the farewell kiss with a "Remember me." The soldier wrote in his blood, "Remember me." And we all say:

"Death shall not claim the immortal mind;
Let earth close o'er its sacred trust,
Yet goodness dies not in the dust."

Our Divine Lord silenced the murmuring throng at His anointing with words of commendation co-extensive with the gospel He preached. Rising higher, we find Him framing a memorial service to perpetuate His own memory throughout all time. "This do in remembrance of Me." In view of this law of desire, history has been and is being written. For this the halls and galleries are filled with familiar faces and forms. In obedience to this claim, and deeply sensible of the fact that we can never pay the debt which is upon us; let us assemble on Union Defenders' Day, and, by spirited, patriotic services, pay another tribute of respect to the memory of our Nation's Defenders, who were and are so noble and true. Chaplains! Captains! Division Officers! Brothers! let us all line up! Let every man do his duty on February 12th, 1897. I trust that the accompanying order of exercises may be suggestive and helpful on that day, and that an unusually large number of Camps may report having observed the day.

PROGRAM FOR UNION DEFENDERS' DAY.

General Topic.

OUR COUNTRY: HER DEFENDERS AND SAVIOURS.

Introductory.

1. Song, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."
2. Prayer.
3. A short address on "Union Defenders' Day."

Part First—"Our Country."

1. Song, "America."
2. "Our Country's Call."—Bryant. A Recitation.

3. The Response, "Three Hundred Thousand More." Recitation.
4. "Our Country's Flag." "The Stripes and the Stars." Recitation.
5. National Hymn of the S. of V., "The Banner of Beauty and Glory."

Part Second—"Our Country's Defenders."

1. Her Men.
 - a. The Principal Address of the Evening.
 - b. Song, "The Flag of Lincoln and Washington."
2. Her Women.
 - a. Mothers, "The Mothers of Our Volunteers." Recitation.
 - b. Wives, "The Brave at Home." Recitation.
 - c. Maidens, "A Woman of the War." Recitation.

Concluding Hymn—"The Patriot's Doxology."

The above program is so arranged that the Sons may call to their assistance the G. A. R., W. R. C. and the L. A. S. in carrying it out. All the literature needed is 1. A copy of the Popular Libretto prepared by Rev. W. O. Pierce, D. D., Winchester, Ind. As this Libretto contains the National Hymn of the S. of V., every Camp should have several copies on hand. Send to the above address for them. 2. A copy of the charming little book of poems entitled, "Bugle Echoes," by The Stokes Company, New York. The recitations suggested are all in this book.

Trusting that the program may be helpful,

I remain yours, in F., C. and L.,

S. LIGHT, *Chaplain-in-Chief.*

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }

READING, PA., January 7, 1897.

The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:



Adjutant-General.

Circular No. 3.

READING, PA., January 20th, 1897.

To the Grand Army of the Republic:

To whom, if not to those honored veterans of the Civil War, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, should the Sons of Veterans turn for co-operation and assistance in the work of building up their organization? The same blood that coursed through the veins of the "boys of '61 to '65," and prompted them to the support of the cause that meant the preservation of the Union, flows through the veins of their sons, who are organized that those deeds of valor and patriotism shall not be forgotten; that the priceless lives, the empty sleeves, and the precious blood with which treason was suppressed shall stand as a constant reminder of the perpetuity of our country's institutions as founded by Washington and so firmly re-established by the martyred Lincoln.

The Sons of Veterans have not sought, nor do they aspire, to the position occupied by the Grand Army of the Republic. This, in the very nature of things, can never be. We come to you only as your sons, soliciting your earnest aid and support in the establishment of new Camps, and in the strengthening of existing ones, that our membership may be so increased and our work so advanced that when the time shall come—as come it must—that we may be called upon to assist in promoting the purposes for which the Grand Army of the Republic was founded, we may be found numerically organized for the successful prosecution of this labor of love and patriotism.

We invite your careful perusal of the principles and objects of our Order:

PRINCIPLES.

SECTION 1. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, and a realization that under His beneficent guidance the free institutions of our land, consecrated by the services and blood of our fathers, have been preserved, and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

SEC. 2. True allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, based upon a respect for, and devotion and fidelity to, its Constitution and Laws, manifested by the discountenancing of anything that may tend to weaken Loyalty, incite to Insurrection, Treason or Rebellion, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our National Union.

OBJECTS.

SECTION 1. To keep green the memories of our fathers, and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union.

SEC. 2. To aid the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and all honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors and marines in caring for their helpless and disabled veterans; to extend aid and protection to their widows and orphans; to perpetuate the memory and history of their heroic dead, and the proper observance of Memorial Day and Union Defenders' Day.

SEC. 3. To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Order.

SEC. 4. To inculcate patriotism and love of country, not only among our membership, but among all the people of our land, and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice to all.

ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union army or navy during the Civil War of 1861-1865, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has, ever borne arms against the government of the United States of America.

We make an earnest appeal to the end that a Camp of Sons of Veterans may be found to flourish under the fostering care of every Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Information and blanks necessary for the formation of Camps may be obtained from the Division Commander in your State, or will be cheerfully forwarded from these headquarters upon request.

Faithfully yours,

Official:

H. H. HAMMER,

Adjutant-General.

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS
 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
 OMAHA, NEB., Dec. 12th, 1896.

Recognizing that our sons must take up the work we soon shall lay aside; and recognizing also the great importance of organization in their ranks as well as our own, the Commander-in-Chief most heartily commends to all Commanders and comrades the address herewith issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, and asks their hearty co-operation in sustaining Camps already organized, and in the organization of new ones.

To J. L. RAKE,
 Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans,
 Reading, Pa.

T. S. CLARKSON,
Commander-in-Chief.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Circular No. 4.

BLUFFTON, IND., April 28, 1897.

BROTHERS :—The day, America's glorious Memorial Day, the day when this nation is expected to be at the graves of her soldiers in commemoration of their faithfulness and self-sacrifice, even unto the death, is not far distant. We approach the day with feelings of mingled pain and pleasure. Pain, because of a keen sense of appreciation of the severe struggles, the intense sufferings and the black midnight darkness of the Valley of the Shadow of Death, through which our beloved heroes and saviours passed that we might enjoy such glorious liberty and be the possessors of such benign institutions. Pleasure, because the day affords all true, noble, loyal and patriotic American citizens the heaven-born privilege of leaving the busy walks of life for the quiet streets of the silent city of the heroic dead, and with appropriate music, eloquent eulogies, choice flowers and wreaths of beautiful leaves, lay upon Memory's Altar another token of love and reverence for those who were

"The pillar of a people's hope,
 The centre of a world's desire"

and gratitude for the patriotic living concerning whom one has beautifully sung :

"Honor and love to the soldiers give,
 Their deeds of valor will ever live ;
 Cherished in memory bright and fair,
 Our national pride and safety they are."

While this day is recognized as G. A. R. Day let it not be forgotten that it is also Sons of Veteran's Day. On this day every heart of every son of a veteran in all this broad land ought to respond to the call of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commanders and Chaplains of the several Divisions, the Captains and Chaplains and enter into the exercises of the day with the zeal and enthusiasm that characterized the days of enlistment and the organization of the armies out of which our brave American soldiers have fallen. May we, as sons of veterans, feel deeply how much of what we are and what we possess, we owe to the liberty and institutions purchased for us by the blood of our fathers. Let us not forget that all that we with the hosts assembled in the myriads of cemeteries of this land can do to honor the heroes who gave us these blessings

will not be a fit tribute to their memory so dear. Could we cause a monument to ascend not only till it reached the skies, but till it pierced them, its broad surface could contain but part of that which shall outlive the duration of letters and knowledge among men. Let us, therefore, as members of this noble Order, put forth our best effort to show our loyalty to and love for the members of the G. A. R. Let us at all times, and especially on Memorial Day, assist the Grand Army in such manner as may seem most expedient to that organization. Every brother is expected to use his influence toward making May 30th more of a holy day and less of a holiday.

Let every Camp religiously observe Memorial Sunday as well as Memorial Day. By so doing and turning out in a body to the service, in due form, you will commend our Order to the attention of the thoughtful people of every community where a Camp is located.

Brothers, in a quiet, unobtrusive, but none the less effective manner, let us make ourselves felt and appreciated this year as never before. Let every Camp be on the alert and seize every opportunity to perform such services on May 23d and 30th as will enable it to, as nearly as possible, fill every blank in the Chaplain's report with that which will appear as a record of good work done for the Order. Wherever it can be done harmoniously let Camps secure speakers from the ranks of our Order.

Let me in conclusion urge upon Division Chaplains the importance of promptness in forwarding reports. The reports must be in my hands not later than July 1st.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

S. LIGHT,

Chaplain-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }

READING, PA., May 3, 1897.

The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated, with the hope that every member in the Order will be found in line in regulation uniform.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A. A. Hammer.

Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 1.

READING, PA., November 2, 1896.

C. L. Henley, Commander Camp No. 17, Division Indiana, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Wabash, Ind.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother Somerville Light as Chaplain-in-Chief of the Order for this administration. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible date

convenient to you both. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

This Special Order shall be your authority.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 2.

READING, PA., November 2, 1896.

W. A. Holley, Senior Vice-Commander Michigan Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Holland, Mich.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother J. A. Mabbs as Surgeon-General of the Order for this administration, and this Special Order shall be your authority. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible moment mutually convenient. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 3.

READING, PA., November 6, 1896.

C. D. Wharton, Commander Camp No. 229, Burlington, Kan.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother John Redmond as Judge Advocate-General of the Order for this administration, and this Special Order shall be your authority. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible moment mutually convenient. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 4.

READING, PA., April 19, 1897.

General C. Borin, Council-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Chanute, Kan.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to attend the sessions of the Kansas Division as the direct representative of the Commandery-in-Chief. Immediately upon the adjournment of the sessions at Chanute you will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

This Special Order shall be your authority.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 5.

READING, PA., August 23, 1897.

To the Council-in-Chief, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

GREETING:—The members of the Council-in-Chief are hereby directed to convene at the temporary headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief, Denison Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., at nine o'clock on the morning of September 8th, 1897, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Quartermaster and Adjutant-Generals.

It is to be hoped that the members will be prompt in their attendance, whereby they may be able to complete the auditing of the accounts to enable them to complete their report for presentation to the Commandery-in-Chief at the opening session. Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

REPORT OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
 84 La Salle St., CHICAGO, August 23, 1897.

To J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief:

SIR:—I have the honor to submit my report of the business of the Quartermaster-General's Department for the term ending August 23, 1897:

REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL TO REPORT TO 15TH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

Cash on hand, as shown by report.....	\$1,427 32	
Received from Divisions (balance due).....	46 97	
" for Per Capita Tax.....	173 91	
" " Charter Fees.....	8 00	
" " Stove sold.....	10 00	
		\$1,666 20
Paid for General Expenses.....	\$ 19 87	
" " Salaries.....	250 00	
" " Traveling Expenses.....	12 85	
" " Expenses 15th Annual Encampment.....	696 36	979 08
Balance cash on hand at beginning administration....		\$ 687 12

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM SEPT. 14TH, 1896, TO
AUG. 23D, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand.....	\$ 687 12	
" received for Supplies.....	\$4,660 93	
" " Per Capita Tax.....	4,909 07	
" " Charter Fees.....	357 26	
" " Miscellaneous ...	5 62	9,932 88
Total Cash Receipts.....		\$10,620 00

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of the 15th Annual Encampment, in addition to those paid by preceding administration:—

W. S. Garber, stenographer.....	\$ 29 50	
Proceedings.....	530 00	
Postage on proceedings.....	22 00	
Boxes and drayage on proceedings.....	7 38	
Reading proof, proceedings.....	1 00	
Express on transcript of proceedings.....	2 50	
Express on money.....	2 10	
		\$ 594 48

Traveling Expenses:—

Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General.....	\$ 191 03	
Quartermaster-General.....	9 00	
C. Borin (Council-in-Chief).....	28 00	
		\$ 228 03

Supplies:—

Badges and decorations.....	\$ 2,681 60	
Camp and Division supplies.....	768 60	
Cost of shipping.....	134 59	
Wrapping paper, twine, &c.....	13 41	
Insurance.....	23 80	
		\$ 3,622 00

Office Expenses :—

Rent, Commandery Headquarters.....	\$ 330 00	
Rent, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	360 00	
Light and toilet supplies, Commandery...	3 60	
Light and toilet supplies, Quartermaster-General.....	22 78	
Telegrams and express, Commandery....	19 01	
Telegrams and express, Quartermaster-General.....	19 11	
Postage, Commandery Headquarters....	211 59	
Postage, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	64 00	
Stationery, all National Officers.....	104 41	
Stationery, Commandery Headquarters..	69 96	
Stationery, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	15 85	
Rubber stamps, Commandery Headquarters.....	16 91	
Miscellaneous, Commandery Headquarters.....	23 16	
Miscellaneous, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	4 35	
		\$1,264 73

General Expenses :—

Moving Commandery Headquarters.....	\$ 114 11	
Gold Star for Commander-in-Chief.....	150 00	
Testimonials to Past Commanders-in-Chief Lawler and Walker.....	118 00	
Commandery Ribbon	12 00	
Blanks furnished free to Divisions.....	24 35	
Password and countersign and secret work blanks.....	9 50	
Rent safety deposit box (2 years).....	6 00	
Record books.....	21 43	
Inspection circulars.....	10 50	
Inspection of Commandery Headquarters..	11 50	
Binding Proceedings.....	8 75	
Furnishings for Commandery Headquarters.....	76 16	
Miscellaneous.....	8 50	
		\$ 570 80
Salaries		2,875 00
General Orders.....		249 48
16th Annual Encampment.....		25 45
Furniture		7 30
Tax Refunded.....		1 88
Miscellaneous.....		20 94

Total Expenditures..... \$9,460 09

Balance Cash on hand..... \$1,159 91

Supplies on hand, inventoried at cost..... \$1,329 50

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief on September 14, 1896, was as follows :

GENERAL ACCOUNT, SEPT. 14TH, 1896.

Dr.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Cr.
Furniture	\$ 587 69	Due to Divisions.....	\$ 4 60
Supplies.....	1,525 39	Surplus.....	2,804 07
Cash.....	687 12		
Due from Divisions.....	8 47		
	\$2,808 67		\$2,808 67

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief, at the close of business, August 23, 1897, is as follows:

GENERAL ACCOUNT, AUG. 23, 1897.

Dr.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Cr.
Furniture	\$ 535 50	Alabama and Tennessee....\$	01
Supplies.....	1,329 50	Connecticut.....	32
Cash.....	1,159 91	Indiana	44
California.....	10	Iowa.....	17
Colorado.....	05	Massachusetts.....	09
Kentucky.....	05	New Jersey.....	13
Maine	05	New York.....	25
Missouri.....	2 22	Ohio	01
Nebraska.....	20	Rhode Island.....	34
Oregon	01	South Dakota.....	1 12
Washington.....	1 54	Vermont.....	11
Gulf.....	4 54	West Virginia.....	01
		Surplus.....	3,030 67
	<u>\$3,033 67</u>		<u>\$3,033 67</u>

The account of Profit and Loss from September 1, 1896, to August 23, 1897, is as follows:

PROFIT AND LOSS, SEPT. 1ST, 1896, TO AUG. 23D, 1897.

Dr.	Losses.	Gains.	Cr.
To Supplies (obsolete forms destroyed).....\$	36 58	By Charter Fees.....\$	365 50
" Furniture (10 per cent. reduction).....	59 49	" Per Capita Tax.....	5,080 50
" Office Expenses.....	1,264 73	" Supplies	862 12
" General Expenses.....	586 24	" Balance (net loss).....	570 57
" Salaries.....	3,125 00		
" Traveling Expenses.....	240 88		
" 15th Nat'l Encampment.	1,290 84		
" General Orders.....	249 48		
" 16th Nat'l Encampment.	25 45		
	<u>\$6,878 69</u>		<u>\$6,878 69</u>

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF RECEIPTS.

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Received from predecessor.....\$	1,494 66	\$ 211 95	\$ 687 12
" for Supplies	6,645 52	5,509 45	4,660 93
" " Per Capita Tax.....	5,249 20	6,072 29	4,909 07
" " Charter Fees.....	464 00	475 00	357 26
" " Miscellaneous.....	405 80	507 20	5 62
	<u>\$14,259 18</u>	<u>\$12,775 89</u>	<u>\$10,620 00</u>

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EXPENDITURES.

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Debts of preceding administration...		\$ (A) 1,072 86	
Expenses of preceding annual meeting in addition to those paid by preceding administration.....\$	783 43	660 43	\$ 594 48
Traveling expenses of Commander-in-Chief and staff.....	193 07	146 40	228 03
Supplies:—			
Badges and decorations.....	3,453 40	2,695 60	2,681 60
Camp and Division supplies.....	1,751 10	1,313 24	768 60
Cost of shipment (B).....			
Wrapping paper, insurance, &c...	47 58	39 94	37 21

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Furniture	\$ 173 50	\$ 23 75	\$ 7 30
General orders	291 93	281 90	249 48
Salaries	3,000 00	2,750 00	2,875 00
Office Expenses:—			
Rent	830 00	445 00	690 00
Telegrams, Postage and Stationery (C)			
Miscellaneous	84 75	81 09	70 80
General Expenses:—			
Transfer Commandery Headquarters	34 40	185 34	114 11
Records		20 85	21 43
Miscellaneous	350 08	479 62	435 26
Stationery	174 89	118 38	190 22
Telegraphing	80 17	73 23	38 12
Postage	271 68	228 45	275 59
Cost of shipping supplies and other express charges	303 72	199 59	134 59
Other items	398 32	532 90	48 27
Totals	\$12,222 02	\$11,348 57	\$ 9,460 09

(A) Includes the amount paid on account of "Rowley Claim."

(B) Included in Express item.

(C) Included in Telegraph, Postage and Stationery items.

The amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the present administration was \$687.12. The surplus account had a credit of \$2,804.07. We had on hand at the close of business on August 23, 1897, \$1,159.91 in cash, and a surplus of \$3,030.67.

It requires but a casual glance at the following figures to show how carefully the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief have guarded the financial affairs of the Order. Our revenues from per capita tax have been reduced from \$6,072.29 last year to \$4,909.07 for the year just closed, a loss of \$1,163.22; revenue from Charter Fees from \$475.00 to \$357.26, a loss of \$117.74; our profits on supplies from \$389.31 to \$862.12, a loss of \$127.19; a loss from these three items of \$1,408.15. Notwithstanding this decrease in revenue of \$1,408.15, our surplus is but \$570.57 less than it was at the close of the preceding administration.

I feel it my duty to call to your attention what may prove a serious menace to the Order. No complaint has been made, or can be justly made, that the affairs of the Order have been otherwise than economically administered. But our revenues are being constantly reduced and our surplus is being rapidly extinguished. At the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration our surplus was \$5,685.00. This surplus was reduced to \$5,138.50 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Hall's term of office; increased to \$5,176.41 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Maccabe's term; reduced to \$4,190.21 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Bundy's term; further reduced to \$3,601.24 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Russell's term; and again reduced to \$3,030.67 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Rake's term. Emergencies may arise that will necessitate increasing our revenues, and if this Encampment shall again fix the quarterly per capita tax at 4 cents, I am of the opinion that the Council-in-Chief should be empowered to raise the amount of such quarterly per capita tax, should necessity require.

Divisions are indebted to the Commandery-in-Chief as follows: California, 10 cents; Colorado, 5 cents; Kentucky, 5 cents; Maine, 5 cents; Missouri, \$2.22; Nebraska, 20 cents; Oregon, 1 cent; Washington, \$1.54; Gulf, \$4.54; and the following Divisions have balance due them from the Commandery-in-Chief: Alabama and Tennessee, 1 cent; Connecticut, 32 cents; Indiana, 44 cents; Iowa, 17 cents; Massachusetts, 9 cents; New Jersey, 13 cents; New York, 25 cents; Ohio, 1 cent; Rhode Island, 34 cents; South Dakota, \$1.12; Vermont, 11 cents; West Virginia, 1 cent.

The following Divisions, at the date of this report, are in arrears for tax for the quarter ending June 30, 1897: Indiana, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

I have received the bonds, duly approved by the Commander-in-Chief, of all Division Commanders, with the exception of that of the Commander of the Division of Oregon.

Complaint has been made to these headquarters during the year that the pins on the membership badge have been of poor quality, making the fastening of the badge insecure. Major Davis, who furnishes the badges, was promptly notified and advised that more care must be exercised in the manufacture of the pins, and I have his assurance that there will be no further cause for complaint.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General I am most grateful for many kindly acts, and I am fully appreciative of the cordiality and friendship which has marked all of their relations with myself during the past year. It has been a pleasure to serve the Order under such genial and able brothers, and again I beg to offer them my sincere thanks.

Faternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 6th, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report as Inspector-General:

The report as submitted shows our Order to be in excellent condition, considering the times. Each of the several headquarters of Divisions have been duly inspected with the following results, as reported to this office by the Assistant Inspector-General:

No. 1. Every Division has a charter.

No. 2. All Divisions have a regularly adopted set of By-Laws, except the Gulf, Iowa and New York, which are in accord with the C., R. and R., except Maryland.

No. 3 "A." Records of the Division Councils and Division Encampments are not complete in Maine, Vermont, New Jersey and West Virginia.

No. 3 "B." The Registers of Members is reported as complete in all Divisions, excepting Illinois.

No. 3 "C." Rosters of Officers are complete in all Divisions, except West Virginia and Wisconsin.

No. 3 "D." Records of Commissions issued are correctly kept in every Division.

No. 3 "E." Also of Dispensations issued, except in the Division of Wisconsin.

No. 3 "F." The Black Book is not receiving the necessary attention in Colorado, New Jersey, Vermont.

No. 3 "G." The Adjutant's Cash Book is properly kept in all Divisions.

No. 3 "H." The Quartermaster's Cash Book is reported as not properly kept in the Divisions of Washington and Wisconsin.

No. 3 "I." Oregon and Wisconsin do not keep a Ledger account.

No. 4. The Quartermaster of Wisconsin does not keep an account with each Camp as provided for.

No. 5.

No. 6. Illinois Division keeps no general account. Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island's general accounts are in excellent shape.

No. 7. The Divisions reporting in debt are California, Gulf, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio and West Virginia. The Division of Indiana owe the largest amount, \$448.96, and the Division of West Virginia the least, \$15.00. The total indebtedness of the several Divisions is \$1,503.90—\$260.85 more than last year.

No. 8. Every Division reported cash on hand excepting the Gulf and Indiana, the total amount being \$3,758.24. Massachusetts has the largest amount, \$1,063.68, while Indiana is reported as overdrawn, \$83.96, which amount I have included in answering question No. 7. Pennsylvania has during the past year paid several hundred dollars indebtedness, which has caused it to lose its standing financially and rank No. 2. The total shows that the Divisions have \$217.96 over last year on hand.

No. 9. There were no Divisions without supplies on hand, the total value being \$1,644.16.

No. 10. The supplies were of current issue except in the Divisions of the Gulf and West Virginia and they have been ordered to destroy the old and order new.

No. 11. Each Division Commander has filed bond as prescribed in the C., R. and R.

No. 12. The Quartermaster in the Divisions of the Gulf, Illinois, Iowa and West Virginia are reported as not having given bonds.

No. 13. Salaries are paid to the Adjutants and Quartermasters in all Divisions except the Gulf, New York, Oregon and West Virginia.

Nos. 14 and 15. There were reported 32,418 members in last reports in 1,272 Camps, an average of about 25 members to each Camp in the Order.

Nos. 16 and 17. The total number of Camps organized since organization is reported as 4,564, with 1,908 reported as disbanded (Nos. 18 and 19) and 1,052 suspended and not reinstated, and 321 suspended during the past year, that is 1895. This is as near as can be furnished, owing to several Divisions' books having been destroyed by fire and also misplaced.

No. 20. A general observance of Memorial Day and Memorial Sunday show that our members are earnest in the work which we are organized for.

No. 21. Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island were the only Divisions which held a field-day.

No. 22. In answer to the question every Division reported that correspondence is *promptly* and thoroughly attended to. "I beg to differ," and think that some of the officers must have misunderstood the Assistant Inspectors-General when they asked this question, as at this office it has been almost impossible to get answers to letters written which were of great importance.

No. 23. All orders of the Commander-in-Chief are promptly mailed.

No. 24. Camp requisitions are filed by every Quartermaster.

No. 25 (A). Every Division Commander is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (B). All but one Adjutant is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (C). Every Inspector is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (D). All but one Mustering Officer is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

By examining some of the reports you will doubt this and think that some of them had never been mustered into our Order.

No. 26. All Division Officers have correspondence with the Grand Army of the Republic officials regarding our Order as to the formation of new Camps, excepting New Jersey.

No. 27. It is pleasing to note that the G. A. R. are in hearty sympathy with our Order throughout the country.

Nos. 28 and 29. Twenty-one Divisions report the Ladies' Aid Society as established in their Division and that they are a great help and assistance to our Order.

No. 30. Sixteen Divisions report the social feature predominating, while the military feature is reported as receiving more attention and becoming more pronounced each year.

Nos. 31 and 32. The cost of charters range from \$12.00 to \$20.00, for which amount Camp charters and the Camp packets as prescribed in the C., R. and R. is furnished.

No. 33. The total cost of Division Inspections was \$278.97, an average of \$9.62 to each Division.

The following is the corrected list of Assistant Inspectors-General assigned to inspect Division Headquarters :

DIVISION.	ASST. INSPECTOR-GENL.	ADDRESS.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	W. R. Cooper.....	
California.....	Frank C. Shipley.....	Knoxville, Tenn.
Colorado.....	George H. Frye.....	Oakland, Cal.
Connecticut.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
Gulf.....	James Lewis, Jr.....	New Orleans, La.
Illinois.....	F. C. Stillson.....	Battle Creek, Mich.
Indiana.....	Dan S. Gardner.....	Massillon, Ohio.
Iowa.....	R. Loebenstein.....	Chicago, Ill.
Kansas.....	W. Y. Morgan.....	Hutchinson, Kan.
Kentucky.....	D. Q. Morrow.....	Hillsboro, Ohio.
Maine.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
Maryland.....	J. Lewis Rake.....	Reading, Pa.
Massachusetts.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
Michigan.....	Rev. Somerville Light.....	Wabash, Ind.
Minnesota.....	E. H. Milham.....	St. Paul, Minn.
Missouri.....	John Redmond.....	Burlington, Kan.
Nebraska.....	Grant W. Harrington.....	Hiawatha, Kan.
New Hampshire.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
New Jersey.....	E. W. Alexander.....	Reading, Pa.
New York.....	W. B. McNulty.....	Philadelphia, Pa.
Ohio.....	Dan S. Gardner.....	Massillon, Ohio.
Oregon.....	E. Hofer.....	Oregon.
Pennsylvania.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
Rhode Island.....	George E. Cox.....	Hartford, Conn.
South Dakota.....	F. A. Burdick.....	White, S. Dakota.
Vermont.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Providence, R. I.
Washington.....	D. M. Dwire.....	Salem, Oregon.
West Virginia.....	F. W. Myers.....	Parkersburg, W. Va.
Wisconsin.....	R. Loebenstein.....	Chicago, Ill.

**REPORT OF OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
HEADQUARTERS BY ASSISTANT INSPECTOR-GENERAL
R. M. J. REED, OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Providence, R. I.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In accordance with your orders I inspected the headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief, located in the city of Reading, Penna., on the 12th day of November, 1896, and have the honor to submit the following report:

The headquarters are conveniently and pleasantly located in Second National Bank Building, Penn Square, and consist of a suite of two large, well-lighted and ventilated rooms, with all desirable modern conveniences of a first-class office building. Regular office hours are maintained. The Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General are at headquarters morning, afternoon and evening of each day (Sunday excepted), when not out of the city on official business.

All correspondence is disposed of on day of its receipt, the same being carefully filed for reference. Division Orders and circulars are promptly filed in separate files by Divisions. Methodical business prevails in the conduct of headquarters, all records being accurately kept and noted. "Old Glory" floats day and night from headquarters' window, attracting attention to our National Headquarters and reminding the public of the organization. The Commandery silk colors are neatly disposed of in the rooms occupied respectively by the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General, adding greatly to the attractiveness of the offices and giving dignity to the surroundings. The officers are conversant with the C., R. and R. and thoroughly alive to the needs and requirements of the whole Order. The bond of the Commander-in-Chief was properly filed and approved by the Council-in-Chief. The bond of the Adjutant-General was also approved and is in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. The furniture equipment consists of:

Two roll-top desks, one typewriter cabinet with Yost typewriter, one document filing cabinet with base, one bookcase, one national letter filing cabinet with base, one letter press and table.

The floors are neatly covered with rugs, while upon the walls are displayed the portraits of seven of our Past Commanders-in-Chief, and a frame containing the Commandery-in-Chief and Division marks.

The records are found to comprise all enumerated in the C., R. and R., and consist of charter application record, roster of elective and appointed Commandery-in-Chief and Division officers, commission record (new and after a revised and improved form prepared by present headquarters), record of dispensations issued, record of courts-martial, record of Camps, record of decisions, document index, Division charter record, cash book, records of Adjutants' consolidated reports, Encampment roll and Adjutant-General's receipt book.

Remittances from all sources are receipted for promptly and in turn transferred daily to the Commander-in-Chief, who receipts to the Adjutant-General for the same. All funds are deposited daily in bank and monthly returns are made of the same to the Quartermaster-General on a new form, accounting in detail for all receipts and expenditures, and showing balance due, which are paid invariably by draft. I have the honor to be,

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,

R. M. J. REED,
Assistant Inspector-General.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA., January 5th, 1897.

"REPORT OF INSPECTION OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT."

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
READING, PA., March 5th, 1897.

Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Providence, R. I.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—It is my pleasure to report that on the 22d ultimo, assisted by the Adjutant-General, I embraced the opportunity to make an official inspection of the department of the Quartermaster-General. We found his headquarters located in a convenient and pleasant suite of two rooms at No. 84 La Salle Street, Chicago, and thoroughly equipped in a business-like way for the transaction of official business. It is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to assure the members of the Commandery-in-Chief that the methods which prevail in this department are beyond criticism. The supplies are well arranged for expeditious handling and give evidence in the matter of the quantity on hand of great care in the important matter of ordering the supplies. The records, from a careful examination, show a commendable promptness in the dispatch of official business, and the dates of entry show that the work of the department is given that attention which a careful conduct of any enterprise would demand.

The system of recording the work of the department, while on double entry lines, is original in its details, in that complicated methods have been avoided and a simple but commendable set of record books are the result.

The records in use in this department are:

Invoice book, in which is entered the quantity of each blank, book, badge, etc., purchased, and from which the party furnishing the supplies is credited, with their values shown. The proper form account is charged with the quantity in the stock ledger, and the general stock account charged with the value of the supplies furnished.

Stock ledger, containing accounts with each form in stock, in which is charged the number of each form received, and in which credit is given for the quantity of each form sent out upon requisition.

Cash book, in which is recorded all items of cash receipts and expenditures.

Journal, in which are journalized all cash and invoice book entries.

Ledger, containing accounts with each Division in the Order, parties furnishing supplies to the Order and the various accounts representing the expenditures of the Order.

Receipt book, covering consecutively numbered receipts for all monies received.

Requisition book, from which is issued consecutively numbered authorizations for all expenditures made.

Requisition file, in which is bound all requisitions for supplies after the same have been filled and properly charged.

The financial transactions between the departments of the Commander-in-Chief and Quartermaster-General are a matter of settlement on the last day of each month in detail, on a special form recently prepared for this purpose, and which has operated with entire satisfaction.

The entire system employed appears to be perfect, and proves the wisdom of locating this important department instead of causing constant confusion by too frequent changes.

It is but just to Quartermaster-General Loebenstein to say that he deserves the thanks of our members for the skill which he has displayed in perfecting the simple yet effective system which he employs, and for the unvarying promptness which he has exhibited in the discharge of the duties of his office.

Fraternally and respectfully yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

CONNECTICUT.

I desire to congratulate Commander Cox for the excellent work which he has accomplished throughout the Division of Connecticut during the past year. He has personally visited every Camp in the State during his term, assisted in mustering three new Camps, and attended his Camp at Hartford regularly. The military feature is receiving the closest attention from him, he being in active service in the state militia. He is desirous of pushing it ahead in our Order.

Adjutant Warner and Quartermaster Bogue have given great and valuable assistance to the Division Commander in making the year a successful one, both financially and socially. The books of these brothers are in excellent condition; they are A No. 1, and I commend them for their neatness and accuracy.

ILLINOIS.

The Division Commander has performed most of the office work personally, so as to avoid payment of salaries. Such sums so saved are used most effectively in recruiting. The Division is on the gain and in splendid hands.

IOWA.

Agreeable to instructions from your headquarters, I have the honor to enclose herewith my report of the inspection of Iowa Division Headquarters, made at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on 12th inst.:

The headquarters of the Division are conveniently located in the business portion of the city, and are admirably adapted for the dispatch of Division business.

I find that two Camps in this Division are working under unforfeited charters of the same number (34), viz.: Mt. Pleasant and Decorah. Mt. Pleasant was mustered on July 22d, 1895, and chartered as No. 34. Decorah was mustered 11 days previous and assigned No. 34 and chartered accordingly. Subsequently Mt. Pleasant was ordered to report as No. 19, but their charter still reads "No. 34."

I also find that the records of Camps bearing numbers that were formerly borne by (now) disbanded Camps are incorporated under the same heading as the records of the old Camp.

I find that the cash book of the Division was not balanced at the close of the last Division Commander's term, nor is it now balanced for the period of Commander Sortor's incumbency. The balance he claimed to be correct was accepted by the present Division Commander and receipted for by him. The cash book fails to show approval by Division Council, though statement is made that cash book was audited by Division Council and approved.

The 11th Annual Encampment of the Iowa Division authorized the issue of bonds to pay Division indebtedness. The amount of such issue is unknown to the present Division officers—the record of such issue, stubs of bonds issued and blank bonds being yet in the possession of Commander Hanson's predecessor.

A copy of my report, including this sheet, has been filed with the Commander of the Iowa Division.

Fraternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Assistant Inspector-General.

MAINE.

The headquarters of the Maine Division are conducted in a thoroughly business way. The Division Commander has proved himself the right man in the right place.

Colonel Cooper has worked hard during the past year, and with the able assistance rendered him by his Adjutant, George H. Bangs, and Quartermaster, Thomas A. Cooper, the Division will be turned over to his successor in an excellent condition. The books of the Adjutant and Quartermaster call forth much commendation, as they are correct in every detail. Services thus rendered should be fully appreciated.

I can but speak of the members of our Order in the "Pine Tree State" as a band of loyal brothers.

MARYLAND.

I found the Division records in excellent shape and showing evidences of care and attention on the part of the Adjutant and Quartermaster, and a business-like supervision on the part of the Division Council.

Not the least enjoyable feature of this most pleasant and profitable visitation was the great pleasure we experienced in again meeting that sturdy and honored veteran, General William E. Ross, who so sacrificingly gave his time and means to the permanent establishment of our Order. Alive, as ever, to the needs of our organization, the Maryland Division can always with reliance turn to him for counsel and assistance.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

MASSACHUSETTS.

As Inspector of the Division of Massachusetts, I desire to commend the Division Commander as to his system of transacting the business of his office. The Quartermaster and the Adjutant are also entitled to great credit for the manner in which their books are kept.

The headquarters of the Division are pleasantly located in one of the finest blocks in the City of Pittsfield, and are equipped with all the necessary and modern office utensils.

This Division has done excellent charity work throughout the State of Massachusetts, and is now supporting a dormitory at the Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, Mass., which contains thirty-four beds. It is paying all the expenses of same. This year the expenses amounted to \$808. It has also contributed \$25 to the Andersonville Flag Fund, and has expended over \$600 during the past year for the relief of worthy veterans and their families.

I wish to thank Colonel Sisson and all members of this Division for the many courtesies extended to me, and trust that success will ever follow the Division of Massachusetts.

MINNESOTA.

The Adjutant and Quartermaster are veterans in the service. Having served as Adjutant five years, and as Colonel of the Minnesota Division one year, they are thoroughly competent and I congratulate the Minnesota Division on having such good officials.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Commander Willey is an earnest and hard worker for our Order. His experience as Division Commander last year has assisted him very much in transacting his duties this year.

The Adjutant and the Quartermaster I wish to congratulate for the neat and accurate manner in which their books are kept. The assistance

which such brothers render to a Division Commander is appreciated, and I trust that the members of the New Hampshire Division will promote such workers to higher positions.

NEW YORK.

I desire to commend the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster for the prompt and excellent manner in which they conduct the business of the Division. I found everything in excellent condition and was treated with every courtesy.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division were inspected by the Inspector-General and they were found in excellent condition and well adapted to transact the business of the Division.

This Division has accomplished much good work during the past year. It is the largest Division in our Order, having 149 Camps with 5,481 members in good standing.

The Division Commander has visited personally every Camp in the Division during his term of office and has traveled over 5,000 miles to accomplish it. Col. Tawney has endeared himself to the rank and file.

The Soldiers' Home, in West Philadelphia, is assisted in its support by the Sons of Veterans.

This Division has expended for the relief of the veteran \$453.95 in the past year.

There is also connected with the Division a Death Benefit Association that has paid to its members over \$3,000. This is a feature which should be considered by every Division. The system adopted and the neatness of all books of the Adjutant and Quartermaster show Adjutant Orr and Quartermaster McNulty to be the right men in the right places. Free from debt, having \$274.34 in cash and \$200 in supplies. It pays to the Adjutant and Quartermaster \$800 per year for their services.

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

Every Division Inspector except the Gulf submitted reports of inspections of their respective Divisions.

The reports from the Divisions of Oregon and Washington arrived too late to be included in the consolidated report and tables.

The first Division to mail its report was the Division of California, which was mailed December 16, 1896. I desire at this time to compliment Division Inspectors Edwin F. Tuttle, of Massachusetts; Milton S. Mead, of Minnesota, and Charles A. Hammond, of Rhode Island, for the accuracy and complete reports received from them.

Every Camp in the Divisions of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire and Rhode Island were inspected. I am pleased to mention where but 20 per cent. of the Camps in Indiana were inspected in 1895, every Camp in 1896 was inspected.

Out of 1,250 Camps reported in good standing, 1,065 have been inspected. Many of the Inspectors throughout the Order have but little idea as to what amount of work is required to submit the Inspector-General's report to the Commander-in-Chief. At least it seems so to me, as it has required many letters and the use of telegraph lines to bring this report before you. Many Inspectors, even after all Camps have been inspected, have held it in their hands for four or five months. This is but carelessness on their part and should be stopped. I hope every Division-Inspector next year will see that his report is forwarded to my successor promptly and with dispatch.

This report throughout in almost every instance shows our Order to be gaining in strength, financially and quality. Let us see that it continues to grow in this way, and our watchword in the future be quality and earnest workers for our cause of Friendship, Charity and Loyalty.

No. 1. There are but 479 Camp Captains that are deserving of the mark excellent, 223 good, 180 fair and 161 are marked poor. Massachusetts reports 61 per cent. excellent, and in the Division of West Virginia none are marked excellent, while 33 per cent. are marked poor in the Division of California.

No. 2. The Captain's part of the degree work is much neglected, as but 237 have committed the work to memory and are marked excellent, 216

good, 254 fair, and 349 are marked poor. Connecticut is marked 43 per cent. excellent, while Colorado, South Dakota and West Virginia had no mark of excellent. Maryland is marked 56 per cent. poor.

No. 3. But 316 First Lieutenants have committed the ritualistic work to memory and are marked excellent, 197 are marked good, 272 fair and 260 poor. Massachusetts leads in excellence, receiving 45 per cent., while West Virginia receives but 5 per cent. excellent. Maryland is marked 44 per cent. poor.

No. 4. 279 Second Lieutenants have committed their work to memory, 220 good, 257 fair and 289 poor. Connecticut and Kentucky receives the highest mark in excellence, 37 per cent. The poorest showing comes from Maryland, with 56 per cent. poor.

No. 5. 277 Chaplains have committed their work to memory and are marked excellent, while 204 are good, 278 fair and 292 poor. Massachusetts leads in excellence with 53 per cent., while South Dakota receives only 4 per cent. excellent. Maryland is marked 48 per cent. poor.

No. 6. 333 Sergeants of Guard have memorized their work and are marked excellent, 249 good, 219 fair and 237 poor. Kentucky receives the highest mark in excellence, receiving 50 per cent., while Rhode Island report none as excellent. Maryland is marked 48 per cent. poor.

No. 7. Out of 3,300 officers but 473 are reported as being regular in attendance and are marked excellent, while 283 are marked good, 208 fair and 77 poor. The officers in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Divisions are the best attendants, as 60 per cent. of them are marked excellent, while West Virginia is marked but 5 per cent. excellent. Nebraska are the poorest in attendance and are marked 25 per cent. poor.

No. 8. 444 Camps show gain in membership since last inspection. California leads with 77 per cent. excellent. Maryland shows up the poorest on this question.

No. 9. 812 Camp records are correctly and well kept and are marked excellent, 148 are fair, 60 good and 33 are poor. Pennsylvania received 89 per cent. excellent. Rhode Island records are the poorest kept, as 14 per cent. are marked poor.

No. 10. 838 Quartermaster-Sergeants' bonds are filed. This shows that many Captains and members of the Camp Council are not attending to their duties, and Inspectors should at once report such Captains to their Division Commanders. In Nebraska and Pennsylvania 90 per cent. are marked excellent, while in Kentucky but 25 per cent. are marked excellent. The poorest showing is in New Jersey, as 17 per cent. are given the marking of poor.

No. 11. 539 Camps' officers are reported as uniformed, while 526 are uniformed to some extent. This is certainly a poor showing. Every Camp officer in the Rhode Island Division is reported as uniformed and she is the only Division marked 100 per cent. excellent. In Alabama and Tennessee Divisions 64 per cent. of the officers are poorly uniformed, and by the reports Iowa and West Virginia should give some attention to their uniforms.

No. 12. 488 officers in Camps are reported as wearing rank straps and side arms in accordance with R. and R. and received the mark excellent, 180 good, 155 fair and 15 poor. Massachusetts received 86 per cent. excellent and Alabama and Tennessee prove the poorest in this respect.

No. 13. 803 Camp rooms are properly equipped and are marked excellent, 149 good, 66 fair and 58 poor. Massachusetts leads in per cent. of excellent, receiving 94 per cent., showing 129 Camp rooms out of 137 properly equipped. The Division of South Dakota is the poorest equipped and is marked 41 per cent. poor.

No. 14. 1,014 staff officers are reported provided with proper chevrons. In Rhode Island every staff officer is properly equipped with chevrons and is marked 100 per cent., excellent, while in Iowa 81 per cent. are marked poor.

No. 15. According to reports 929 out of 1,065 Camps reporting are uniformed. Every member of the Division of California is reported as uniformed and the Division is marked 100 per cent., excellent. 67 per cent. of the members of the Iowa Division are reported as poorly uniformed.

No. 16. 978 Camps present a badge to the recruit when mustered. Every Camp in California, Massachusetts and Rhode Island present a badge when mustered.

No. 17. General Orders are read and filed in 96 per cent. of the Camps of our Order. Alabama and Tennessee and California are marked 100 in excellent on their question, while, according to report, South Dakota is disregarding R. and R., as 62 per cent. is marked poor.

No. 18. 1,050 Camps are reported as observing Memorial Day. Every Camp in Massachusetts observed the day and receive the highest mark in excellent, 100 per cent. The least attention was paid to the great day of all days in the Division of South Dakota.

No. 19. 1,062 Camps forwarded their reports and dues promptly to Division Headquarters. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire and Rhode Island receive 100 per cent., excellent.

No. 20. 1,055 Camps report as forwarding their Chaplains' and Surgeons' reports promptly. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island—100 per cent. is given them in excellent—and South Dakota was the poorest in attending to this duty.

No. 21. The number of members in good standing, as reported to this office, was 31,953, an average of 25 members to each Camp. The Division of Pennsylvania is the largest, having 5,448, while Colorado has but 209.

No. 22. There have been dropped during the year 3,891 members. Pennsylvania has suffered the most, having lost 698, while Massachusetts has lost 391 and Indiana 345.

No. 23. 1,514 special meetings have been held since last inspection.

No. 24. Property valued at \$220,788.25 is owned by Camps, an average of \$207.00 to each Camp. Pennsylvania Camps own \$47,356.58; Massachusetts Camps own \$31,833, and New York Camps own \$24,847.95 of property.

No. 25. Over all indebtedness funds to the amount of \$58,175.42 are on hand in the several Camps. Pennsylvania Camps have the most ready money, \$24,672.31, while Colorado have but \$67.20 on hand.

No. 26. The average amount of annual dues is \$1.97.

No. 27. The average amount charged for muster is \$1.60.

No. 28. 723 members have been relieved in the several Divisions to the amount of \$9,270.88. Pennsylvania used for the good cause \$5,244.39, relieving 237 members. Nebraska used but \$5.00 for this object.

No. 29. \$1,788.28 have been expended for the relief of Veterans and their families during the past year. Massachusetts spent \$560.72 for this purpose.

No. 30. There are 671 Camps equipped. Out of this number 30 are equipped as cavalry, 18 are equipped as artillery, 623 are equipped as infantry.

No. 31. 10,092 members are equipped with arms and accoutrements.

No. 32. But 355 Camps engage regularly in drill, while 710 do not. There is a great opening for improvement. However, I am pleased to note that this is an improvement over last year.

No. 33. 551 Camps have assisted the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps during the past year. 490 report they have not. Do not forget, brothers, that this is a part of what we are organized for. Offer your services at all times. Do not wait to be asked by them.

No. 34. 328 Camps have the Ladies' Aid Society connected with their Camps, while 734 report they have none. This is an improvement over last report—a gain of 50—and shows that our eyes are being opened, and that we will in time have a L. A. S. connected with every Camp.

No. 35. 679 Camps report that the members of the G. A. R. attend our meetings and encourage us in our work, and 382 Camps report that the members of G. A. R. do not attend meeting or encourage us in our work.

No. 36. 703 Camps hold social gatherings, and 352 do not deem it necessary to do so.

No. 37. The total cost of Camp inspections was \$1,378.92. The general average of the Divisions range from 37 cents in Michigan to 85 cents in New Hampshire, an average of \$1.29 to each Camp. In the Division of New York it cost for inspection \$168.41, while in Alabama and Tennessee it cost but 2 cents to inspect eleven Camps. Of the 1,065 Camps reporting 675 are reported as first-class, 305 are reported as second class, and 85 are reported as third-class.

I attach the remarks of several Division-Inspectors, giving the condition of the Order in their sections, and which, I think, will be appreciated by all.

DIVISION OF COLORADO.

L. S. DAY, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—This report has been long delayed, hoping to get some of the suspended Camps reinstated. Our new Camp, known as "A Business Man's" Camp, was mustered in in Denver last month, which will undoubtedly be a hustling, live Camp. The Leadville strike seriously interfered with inspection. A number of our brothers, and officers, too, were taken to the "Cloud City" with the Colorado National Guard, and kept there three or four months.

Our Division Colonel is a prominent attorney and doing good work for the Division.

Other Division officers are hustlers and take a personal interest in the Division's welfare, but 'tis a hard fight for existence out here. Politics have killed several good Camps, but this has taught the Division a valuable lesson.

DIVISION OF KANSAS.

WILLIAM K. WARD, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Division of Kansas, possibly like others in the West, has suffered greatly from the disastrous financial depression existing throughout the nation. Also from the effects of the recent *vigorous* state and national campaign. But, although some of our best Camps have succumbed, and our total membership has greatly decreased, I find the survivors struggling bravely and earnestly, full of enthusiasm and loyalty to the grand principles of our Order. Considering the existing circumstances, I believe the showing made by the Sunflower State this year is much above the average, and we can note with pardonable pride the general high rating of the officers of *all rank* of this Division.

The principles of our noble Order are still *very much alive* in Kansas, and with the return of the promised prosperity the membership of this Division will bound upward at once.

DIVISION OF KENTUCKY.

GEORGE S. WEIMER, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—All Camps in this Division are comparatively new, except No. 9, which is in first-class order.

Camp No. 1 is the largest in the state and bids fair to be one of the finest in the Order, gaining members rapidly, and most excellent members, who certainly have the good of the Order at heart. Camps No. 4 and No. 5 are in first-class condition and gaining steadily.

Camps Nos. 6, 10, 11 are colored Camps and are thriving as best they can under the circumstances. Camp No. 10 certainly deserves much credit. Their order of business, the efficiency of the officers is surprising. It is the only Camp that has retired members of the G. A. R. and Veterans, and the members are fairly educated and very enthusiastic.

The Kentucky Division is now in infancy, only a few years here, and we will be second to none. The membership is steadily increasing and there are no truer-hearted, no nobler set of young men, 'neath the grand old stars and stripes.

DIVISION OF MAINE.

WESLEY L. GRIBBIN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Camps of the Maine Division, as a whole, I am sure will rank equally as high as the best Camp of the Order. During the past year the Division rank on inspection has been lowered about two per cent. from that of the previous year, so that we are now on what seems to me to be a rock bottom foundation; and that instead of decreasing in the coming year, we are in a position to at least maintain our present standing. But our efforts will be turned in the direction of increasing our efficiency. At the time of the Camps' inspection they are usually in their weakest condition, as so many of them are country Camps, and they can do better work in the Winter and Spring, which, of course, if inspected then, our Division rank would be much higher. The interest throughout the Division is good, and,

with the return of commercial prosperity, our several Camps will take new courage, and during the coming year will strive to attain the mark which they are capable of attaining.

DIVISION OF IOWA.

EDWIN F. TUTTLE, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—Division, as a whole, in excellent condition. All of the 137 Camps inspected, but as reports were lost by fire it was impossible to obtain duplicate reports for Camps Nos. 4, 118 and 132.

Ritual stimulates interest in many Camps, but is a hindrance to some of the smaller ones.

Ritualistic work well performed in majority of Camps, but in some cases non-committed and poorly executed. Slight loss in membership, but no backward step in any other way. Efficient officers and appearance of entire Division first-class.

DIVISION OF MICHIGAN.

GEORGE W. DAVIS, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—In justice to the Division of Michigan it must be said that while my reports show 22 Camps not inspected, our last quarterly report shows only 33 Camps in good standing; thus 14 of these 22 Camps were dead at the time of inspection. Our low general average is due to this fact. The excellent work of Camp H. O. Herrick, No. 55, Battle Creek, deserves special mention.

DIVISION OF MINNESOTA.

M. S. MEAD, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Minnesota Division is in a critical condition. On July 1st, 1897, there were but 39 Camps in good standing. Very few of these are strong, either numerically or financially. Heroic measures must be instituted or it will be only a matter of a short time before the Division will be compelled to surrender its charter.

The causes leading up to this state of affairs are numerous. The storm of business depression and prevailing distress that has overshadowed the country for the past few years, the lack of sufficient funds in the Division treasury to properly carry on the work, and *the lack of enthusiasm in the Order* are some of the "numerous causes."

DIVISION OF NEW JERSEY.

HOWARD B. GREEN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—This inspection has demonstrated beyond doubt the following facts :

First. That the Death Benefit Association has been a great help to many weak Camps.

Second. That when a Camp has efficient First and Quartermaster-Sergeants the prosperity and welfare of the Camp is almost assured.

Third. The three-degree ritual is a little too difficult for our younger and weaker Camps to handle. The amount to be committed to memory is beyond the average S. of V.

DIVISION OF RHODE ISLAND.

CHARLES A. HAMMOND, Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Division as a whole is in good condition, but, as in many cases, there is room for improvement.

I regret to say there is a loss from last year's average, but which I think is due more to the fact that Camps received a higher marking in some things than was really deserved, and as the inspections this year have been rather close it shows more correctly the actual standing. The three-degree ritual does not meet with favor, as a general rule, although it is studied some.

DIVISION OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

F. A. BURDICK, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—I regret that it is not possible to have complete Inspector's report in this Division, but the business circumstances of political excite-

ment, early closing in of the winter, snow blockades, delay of U. S. mail service, sparse population and impossibility of reaching some Camps, combined with the financial needs of this frontier settlement, have made the matter of inspections so difficult we have submitted our report as best we could.

DIVISION OF VERMONT.

W. O. BALDWIN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—This Division is in about the same condition it has been for several years.

The officers are painstaking, alert and faithful to their duties, and their administration, I believe, will compare favorably from the standpoint of efficiency with any previous one, though results may not be so good owing to changed conditions. It is evident to me that general interest in Camp matters is waning. However, I am fully aware of the fact that the spirit of patriotism among our sons is as deep-rooted as ever, and only needs to be quickened. How this result is to be accomplished is a matter for thoughtful consideration.

DIVISION OF WISCONSIN.

CHAS. C. TOWNSEND, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—In almost all the Camps in Wisconsin the chief stumbling block is the matter of finances. Failure to collect dues invariably results in the loss of members, whose dues are allowed to accumulate until they allow themselves to become suspended rather than pay up. Strict regulations must be made to govern this fault if the Camps expect to prosper.

Discipline also seems to be slack in many Camps, resulting in lack of interest.

The ritual work I find to be fairly well committed, but not as well as it ought to be. Strict rules should be laid down governing this matter, as in other societies.

In submitting my report I wish to call your attention, brothers, to the military part of our Order. This certainly should receive very much more attention from us. We have improved during the past year, but we should do still better. Let us have more drill meetings from squads. If you cannot get a company join your state militia, and be prepared in case we should ever be called upon to defend "Old Glory."

I am proud to mention in "Little Rhody" we have a Camp, Company A., of the R. I. S. of V. Guards, of Woonsocket, who are thoroughly equipped and would be welcomed in the state militia would they accept a place. Escort has been accepted by several Governors from them, and during the past year in New York City, at the Grant parade, this company, 48 men and 3 officers, accompanied by the Division officers, tendered escort to Commander-in-Chief Rake and staff and received much praise for their soldiery appearance. I regret that more of the members of the Order were not permitted to be present on this occasion, for if ever there was a place for us to be present it was there. But 900 of our members took part in the day's ceremonies.

I cannot close this report without thanking the Division-Inspectors for the assistance which they have rendered me. I especially convey my thanks for their cheerful response to all calls made upon them and their faithful performance of the duty assigned them.

In conclusion I desire, Commander-in-Chief Rake, to thank you for the unexpected honor of appointment to the position of Inspector-General on your staff. I have tried to discharge the duties assigned to me faithfully. The assistance which has been so cheerfully given when asked for by Adjutant-General Hammer and Quartermaster-General Loebenstein has lightened my labors and made my official year one to be remembered.

Again thanking you for the honor conferred upon me one year ago in making me one of your official family,

I am respectfully yours, in F., C. and L.,

ARTHUR B. SPINK,
Inspector-General.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

EXHIBIT "A"—Continued.
Table showing Totals for Second Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	11			12			13			14			15			16			17			18			19			20		
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.			
Ala. and Tenn.....	3	1	0	7	3	5	4	3	3	1	1	8	2	1	7	8	2	0	1	1	0	10	0	1	11	0	1			
California.....	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	7	2	0	0	6	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	7	1	0	9	0	0	9	0			
Colorado.....	4	1	0	3	1	3	4	0	3	2	3	0	3	3	0	8	0	0	1	9	0	0	9	0	0	9	0			
Connecticut.....	22	1	2	3	21	1	5	1	24	3	1	3	19	2	5	28	0	0	0	24	2	2	28	1	1	26	1			
Gulf.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Illinois.....	28	6	9	23	12	15	19	49	10	4	32	4	21	12	7	59	1	6	59	5	1	60	0	6	66	0				
Indiana.....	16	7	5	15	18	10	6	46	10	5	0	18	2	4	12	52	1	0	56	4	2	56	1	0	47	0				
Iowa.....	3	3	18	30	5	13	16	20	33	18	2	4	3	10	5	36	45	0	0	9	4	3	51	3	0	22	3			
Kansas.....	15	11	11	22	19	17	5	18	41	10	5	3	16	14	9	20	58	0	0	1	56	1	58	0	1	40	15			
Kentucky.....	4	0	3	3	2	2	1	6	1	1	0	3	4	1	2	5	0	2	1	6	0	1	5	0	2	1	6			
Maine.....	29	4	6	8	19	8	5	15	35	6	0	23	27	5	9	44	0	3	44	1	0	41	1	0	19	11				
Maryland.....	8	5	3	7	9	3	6	5	12	8	2	1	7	6	5	22	0	1	0	22	0	1	20	1	1	1	2			
Massachusetts.....	122	6	5	4	119	9	4	5	129	3	0	5	121	3	12	119	8	5	137	..	..	137	..	..	137	..	..	
Michigan.....	7	3	2	13	10	4	0	11	21	1	0	3	13	0	2	16	22	0	3	22	2	0	22	1	0	2	2			
Minnesota.....	9	8	4	12	9	8	3	13	19	10	3	1	8	6	3	14	30	1	0	23	2	2	29	2	7	1	1			
Missouri.....	13	9	6	15	13	9	6	15	19	15	7	12	11	5	1	26	1	0	2	41	2	32	5	1	5	0	0			
Nebraska.....	5	3	2	10	4	4	4	8	15	2	0	3	6	0	0	14	16	1	0	3	17	0	17	0	2	2	0			
New Hampshire.....	11	2	3	1	10	5	1	15	0	2	0	10	2	1	4	10	3	1	2	0	15	1	16	0	1	0	0			
New Jersey.....	21	2	3	3	19	5	2	22	3	0	3	19	0	9	17	2	3	6	25	0	0	25	0	0	5	1	0			
New York.....	51	9	10	28	36	18	16	28	72	12	11	3	43	4	5	41	92	0	0	6	89	6	90	2	0	6	95			
Ohio.....	26	8	11	24	23	20	6	20	54	13	1	27	6	30	20	12	7	30	62	2	0	60	1	1	56	9				
Oregon.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pennsylvania.....	87	12	17	11	87	15	21	116	5	1	10	7	71	19	22	125	1	0	1	124	1	1	122	1	2	115	4			
Rhode Island.....	14	..	..	..	11	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	11	2	1	14	..	..	..	9	4	13	..	..	14	..	..	
South Dakota.....	5	2	0	1	4	2	5	1	3	2	16	3	0	2	1	4	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	15	0	2	3			
Vermont.....	21	0	4	3	18	0	4	6	27	0	2	0	16	0	4	28	0	0	1	29	0	27	0	0	29	0				
Washington.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Virginia.....	1	1	3	4	0	2	3	4	1	0	4	1	..	..	..	9	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	1	4	3
Wisconsin.....	11	1	3	11	8	5	5	19	5	1	2	13	6	4	6	25	0	0	1	26	0	25	0	0	26	0	0			
Totals.....	539	106	133	252	488	180	155	215	803	149	66	58	430	138	116	978	10	6	63	973	38	907	19	14	891	62	53			
												</																		

EXHIBIT "B."
Table showing Percentages for First Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	1			2			3			4			5			6			7			8			9			10						
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.							
Ala and Tenn.....	18	27	45	10	18	36	98	36	0	27	66	36	10	27	27	18	10	45	27	27	27	18	18	54	10	36	10	10						
California.....	56	0	11	33	11	22	23	44	11	22	23	44	11	22	23	44	11	22	23	33	56	11	0	12	77	11	0	10						
Colorado.....	45	45	0	35	22	44	11	33	22	11	22	33	0	22	33	0	22	11	33	67	0	0	44	11	0	11	0	10						
Connecticut.....	60	20	7	3	43	3	37	30	7	30	23	27	13	20	20	27	10	23	40	47	20	0	23	13	77	10	6	0						
Gulf.....	34	19	21	24	13	19	28	37	13	25	31	28	21	25	26	21	21	31	28	31	27	30	21	36	24	12	65	16	74					
Illinois.....	36	23	13	13	16	31	16	15	31	23	10	10	18	21	18	18	26	15	33	48	31	13	10	38	16	10	13	72	10	71				
Indiana.....	18	28	36	18	6	18	37	39	17	20	39	24	20	18	32	30	12	23	19	30	24	25	11	32	11	25	32	73	13	9				
Iowa.....	38	22	8	9	17	17	24	20	36	10	12	12	32	12	16	18	33	14	16	37	40	14	6	37	12	9	65	5	61	68				
Kansas.....	37	37	12	37	37	12	37	37	37	12	37	12	50	37	12	0	12	50	37	12	50	37	12	0	37	12	37	12	12	0	25			
Kentucky.....	55	8	14	21	19	12	19	48	25	8	25	40	14	12	25	45	23	2	46	25	30	40	31	8	47	12	40	53	34	6	63			
Maine.....	32	16	16	28	2	4	12	56	8	0	44	2	12	0	24	56	15	8	2	48	16	48	2	8	12	12	12	56	6	16	0			
Maryland.....	61	16	12	10	37	19	16	27	45	21	13	19	34	24	16	24	53	21	19	56	24	15	4	29	0	29	1	29	83	9	37			
Massachusetts.....	25	16	12	10	12	10	0	29	19	12	10	10	21	8	21	10	15	4	23	25	21	2	4	29	0	23	42	6	0	1	5			
Michigan.....	25	20	18	6	8	14	27	18	16	18	12	12	16	18	12	20	16	24	18	8	29	14	20	24	10	12	20	2	51	8	2			
Minnesota.....	37	18	30	13	20	11	44	23	27	25	20	23	25	30	20	30	16	27	25	41	41	16	13	23	13	30	32	69	25	4	0			
Missouri.....	35	25	15	25	15	30	15	40	25	10	35	30	25	10	35	30	25	30	25	13	41	16	13	23	13	30	32	69	25	4	0			
Nebraska.....	52	20	18	6	28	18	24	30	28	36	24	12	16	36	30	18	22	36	24	18	34	30	30	6	61	12	18	20	25	5	0			
New Hampshire.....	39	14	25	21	21	21	25	32	33	7	32	25	25	17	28	28	25	17	26	32	35	14	17	32	60	10	21	7	37	3	10			
New Jersey.....	44	14	16	26	20	14	19	47	12	13	32	29	32	14	30	35	24	29	35	17	35	39	19	7	35	12	11	42	68	13	18	6		
New York.....	30	24	10	7	17	15	19	21	31	14	12	13	29	14	14	13	33	19	9	8	36	20	14	2	26	12	12	21	59	9	3	7		
Ohio.....		
Oregon.....	53	17	11	11	20	27	24	27	25	20	24	29	18	22	25	33	22	25	22	29	24	27	26	22	60	22	14	3	54	14	12	18	0	
Pennsylvania.....	42	35	14	7	7	21	28	42	7	14	35	42	7	28	21	42	28	0	57	14	0	35	21	42	35	42	7	14	64	14	7	14	7	
Rhode Island.....	8	33	20	4	0	37	16	12	8	25	25	8	0	37	20	8	4	33	20	8	29	8	20	8	0	12	41	20	4	0	54	4	8	0
South Dakota.....	30	0	0	24	20	0	13	18	26	0	18	0	16	0	32	4	32	0	20	4	20	0	22	10	46	0	10	2	51	0	4	2	2	
Vermont.....	
Washington.....	0	26	15	5	..	5	26	15	5	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	15	15	5	21	15	5	5	15	5	21	0	0	42	5	0	0
West Virginia.....	51	12	6	12	12	25	16	29	25	19	19	19	19	19	18	22	22	16	16	25	5	6	22	9	35	19	6	22	6	6	6	6	3	
Wisconsin.....	

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL,
 WICHITA, KAN., August 7, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Since receiving the appointment as Judge Advocate-General I have given eight official opinions and have written numerous letters of advice to members of the Order. There have been three courts-martial, and in each case the findings and sentence were approved. The remaining five opinions were on questions of general interest to the Order. Copies of all opinions are hereto attached and made a part of this report.

Thanking you, Commander-in-Chief, for the honor conferred and for the courteous treatment extended by yourself and the members of your staff, I remain, Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,

JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION I.

BURLINGTON, KAN., November 21, 1896.

The following question has been submitted by the Commander of the New York Division and referred to me for my opinion :

"Can a member who has been dropped by a Camp which afterwards ceased to exist be elected a member of the Order and mustered into another Camp without a dispensation?"

A dropped member of a Camp which has ceased to exist cannot be mustered into another Camp until he has paid \$2.00 to the Commander-in-Chief, or to the Division Commander, and a dispensation has been granted. Section 4, of Article 9, on page 62, of the C., R. and R., is very plain on this point.

JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION II.

BURLINGTON, KAN., February 11, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of Brother George Crute, of J. C. Fremont Camp, No. 177, Division of Ohio, are respectfully returned.

The following irregularities appear :

1. Improper charge, being "misappropriating funds," and should be "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order."

2. The accused was not present, but was arraigned and pleaded not guilty.

3. The statement of Al. Siler, who is not shown to be a member of the Order, is not sworn to.

However, as the service was good and the evidence clear, I would recommend that the finding and sentence be approved.

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L., JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION III.

BURLINGTON, KAN., March 11, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of John J. McCue, of Col. Ellsworth Camp, No. 87, Division of Illinois, are respectfully returned, with the recommendation that the action of the Division Commander be sustained.

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L., JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION IV.

BURLINGTON, KAN., April 5, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of Brother A. L. Erdman, of Camp No. 13, Division of Pennsylvania, are respectfully returned with the recommendation that the finding and sentence be approved.

Fraternally in F., C. and L., JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION V.

BURLINGTON, KAN., May 25, 1897.

In this case the Division Commander had a question to be submitted to the Division Council for its decision. One member of the Council was

away on leave of absence. The Commander, therefore, did not submit the question to him, taking the ground that the brother cannot perform his duties while taking advantage of the leave of absence.

The question is, has the brother a right to vote on a question submitted, and at the same time enjoy the privileges of a leave of absence?

This is a new point and has, so far as I can learn, no precedent in our Order or in the G. A. R. It is my opinion, however, that a member of the Division Council is not entitled to participate in the business of his Division while off duty on leave of absence. Fraternally yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VI.

WICHITA, KAN., July 30, 1897.

In the matter of the appeal of Past Captain John Vogt from the decision of the Commander of the Pennsylvania Division and the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, which you have submitted for my opinion, I would say:

The appeal is not well taken. When a new charter was granted the Pennsylvania Division in 1888 all the agreements made prior to that time, not mentioned in the C., R. and R. or Division By-Laws, were done away with and are of no force and effect. The fact that the last four Division Commanders elected have been from the Eastern Division indicates that the Division considered null the agreement that the Division-Commander should be elected from the Eastern and Western Divisions alternately.

In case it should be found that Brother Scott was not legally elected, Brother Poerstel, not having received a majority of the votes cast, would still have no claim to the office and a new election would be necessary.

Fraternally yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VII.

WICHITA, KAN., August 2, 1897.

Proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George E. Marsh, of Camp No. 211, Division of Iowa, are herewith returned with the recommendation that the finding and sentence be approved. Fraternally yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VIII.

WICHITA, KAN., August 2, 1897.

You ask my opinion on the following question:

When does a recruit become a member of the Order and when shall the Camp commence charging dues?

A recruit becomes a member of the Order when he has received the three degrees as provided in the ritual. Dues cannot be charged or collected until the three degrees have been given.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF SURGEON-GENERAL,
HOLLAND, MICH.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—It has been said that "there is nothing so dry as saw-dust, statistics or political speech." I do not propose to give you much of the former, and none of the latter. What's the use of all this trouble of compiling this record? is a question I have asked myself, and ask you now to answer for me, unless you use it along the line I shall suggest later.

The Order has to soon look for some more live and up-to-date reasons for an existence, for working in the graveyard will be our principal employment soon, and while commendable, it will not be attractive to our boys. You

ask what to do? I should say, first, push the military feature of our Order, and strict discipline in Camp drill of all members, so we can be of some use in case of our country's needing us; in fact, if possible, secure some recognition from Congress in securing equipments. Secondly, I should say, organize an Insurance of Death Benefit for the Order. As to the how, when and where of this matter, it can all be determined later when you have said that you want it. Remember, brethren, our Order, we must do something or die of inanitation.

I could repeat all that, my predecessor, General Daniel S. Gardner, M. D., has said respecting the Benefit Department and its value to the Order, and also the unnecessary amount of labor entailed upon us to secure our reports, all because of the neglecting to do their duty, and no amount of threatening does any good, for it is too well known the laws probably will not be enforced.

Below you will find a compiled record of all the Divisions.

Number of members mustered.....	61,231
Number of members in good standing.....	29,352
Number of members mustered since last report.....	5,078
Number in State Militia.....	1,041
Number in U. S. Army.....	51
Number in U. S. Navy.....	39
Number of G. A. R. members.....	1,001
Total number of drilled men.....	10,562
Number of members able to bear arms.....	27,653
Number of members over 45 years of age.....	1,011
Age of oldest member (Mass.), years.....	82
Average age of all members, years.....	23
Number of widowers.....	432
Number of married members.....	12,299
Number of unmarried members.....	14,489
Number of deaths within one year.....	149
Number of cases of sickness during the year.....	1,376
Number of injuries during year.....	329
Total number weeks disability (sickness).....	5,159
Total number weeks disability (injury).....	1,034
Number of Camps paying funeral benefits, average benefit, \$41.30,	179
Number of Camps paying sick benefits, average weekly benefit,	
\$3.35.....	179
Number of Camps engaged in regular drill.....	332
Number of members foreign born.....	180
Number of clergymen.....	124
Number of physicians.....	219
Number of dentists.....	87
Number of attorneys.....	443
Number of teachers.....	571
Number of students.....	847
Number of artists and draughtsmen.....	189
Number of musicians.....	589
Number of merchants.....	1,796
Number of salesmen.....	2,400
Number of clerks and bookkeepers.....	2,857
Number of electricians.....	447
Number of telegraph operators.....	424
Number of mechanics.....	3,846
Number of engineers.....	402
Number of railroad conductors.....	144
Number of printers.....	695
Number of sailors.....	78
Number of farmers.....	5,813
Number of miners.....	334
Number of skilled laborers.....	2,279
Number of laborers.....	5,393
Miscellaneous.....	1,737
Number of Camps in Divisions.....	1,146
Number of Camps reporting.....	1,111
Number of Divisions.....	29
Number of Divisions reporting.....	29

The totals of Nos. 12, 13 and 14 should agree with No. 1, but in this they are 2,137 less, and I infer, they being neither widowers, married or single, that they seriously contemplate matrimony, and would suggest a revision of the forms to give them a *place*.

Michigan Division has secured the use of the cast-off uniforms of the state militia, and is looking very neat, all through our hustling Col. H. E. Cowdin.

The sick and death benefits are now participated in by a limited number of Divisions, through the Death Benefit Association, of Philadelphia, but its usefulness could be enlarged by a national association.

We notice from this report that Ohio has one member in the Cuban army. Massachusetts still holds the oldest member, 82. Who is he? Vermont, according to report received, has been paying death benefits on the installment plan, \$3.00 per week. I wonder if that's the way they die there?

Department of the Gulf is reported by Col. G. H. Tinker. Their membership is composed of seven colored to one white, and inability to get reports from them was the cause of not making a better report from that Division. We assure Brother Tinker that we think he has done well. The average age is below that of 1896. I cannot account for it. 1896 it was 27½ years and now 22 9-10 years.

Nebraska, Iowa and Michigan, and I think Wisconsin, have adopted a form similar to the Philadelphia Association, known as the "Nebraska Plan." Michigan is voting by Camps to determine whether we shall organize or not, with favorable returns thus far.

I am not going to give particular mention of Surgeons or Divisions, for they all have done their best, and some under adverse circumstances, and are deserving of praise. Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

J. A. MABBS,
Surgeon-General.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF,
BLUFFTON, IND., September 1, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I have the honor to submit for your consideration the report, up to date, from the Department of Chaplain-in-Chief. I assure you it has been very annoying to me to be conscious of the fact for days that I was tardy with this report. No doubt you have been inconvenienced not a little. However, I trust that you with me may feel somewhat compensated for this annoyance, but the fact that the delay in waiting for reports from Division Chaplains has greatly added to the completeness and strength of the report herewith forwarded to your office. Hoping that this may meet your approval, and I may soon have the pleasure of meeting you at Indianapolis, I remain,

Loyally yours, S. LIGHT,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

TABLE No. 1.

Showing percentage of Camps reporting from each Division.

DIVISION.	Per Cent.	DIVISION.	Per Cent.
Alabama and Tennessee..	80	Missouri.....	70
California	91½	Nebraska	70
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	100
Connecticut.....	100	New Jersey.....	100
Gulf .....	.....	New York.....	80 10-11
Illinois.....	64 23-100	Ohio .....	.....
Indiana.....	65	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa .....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	76
Kansas	83	Rhode Island.....	100
Kentucky.....	85 5-7	South Dakota.....	.....
Maine.....	98	Vermont.....	.....
Maryland.....	89	Washington.....	50
Massachusetts	98	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	78 7-10	Wisconsin	75
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 2.
Showing Camp with largest Membership in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	3	49	Missouri	51	73
California.....	5	48	Nebraska	5	54
Colorado .....	.....	.....	New Hampshire	14	71
Connecticut	6	78	New Jersey.....	8	133
Gulf .....	.....	.....	New York.....	28	144
Illinois	26	100	Ohio.....	.....	.....
Indiana.....	169	81	Oregon.....	.....	.....
Iowa .....	.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	16	229
Kansas	9	79	Rhode Island.....	10	64
Kentucky	1	40	South Dakota.....	13	33
Maine	4	89	Vermont.....	5	45
Maryland.....	1	53	Washington	4	56
Massachusetts.....	9	80	West Virginia .....	.....	.....
Michigan.....	2	60	Wisconsin	43	65
Minnesota.....	.....	.....	

TABLE No. 3.
Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Line Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	11	30	Missouri.....	65	30
California.....	5	30	Nebraska.....	3	40
Colorado.....	.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	14	50
Connecticut	6	42	New Jersey.....	8	53
Gulf .....	.....	.....	New York.....	60	60
Illinois	26	71	Ohio.....	.....	.....
Indiana	169	76	Oregon.....	.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	16	195
Kansas.....	57	61	Rhode Island.....	10	35
Kentucky.....	10	30	South Dakota.....	13	25
Maine	4	50	Vermont.....	77	27
Maryland.....	1 and 2	23 ea.	Washington	4	47
Massachusetts.....	2	55	West Virginia .....	.....	.....
Michigan.....	.....	.....	Wisconsin	43	43
Minnesota.....	.....	.....	

TABLE No. 4.
Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Line and Armed on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	.....	.....	Missouri.....	15	12
California.....	33	13	Nebraska.....	47	18
Colorado.....	.....	.....	New Hampshire	9	22
Connecticut	6	42	New Jersey.....	8	45
Gulf .....	.....	.....	New York.....	26	44
Illinois	26	53	Ohio.....	.....	.....
Indiana.....	336	25	Oregon.....	.....	.....
Iowa .....	.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	2	65
Kansas.....	16	30	Rhode Island.....	10	35
Kentucky.....	10	26	South Dakota.....	.....	.....
Maine.....	4	50	Vermont.....	77	20
Maryland.....	2	20	Washington	4	28
Massachusetts.....	5	41	West Virginia.....	.....	.....
Michigan.....	227	20	Wisconsin	96	16
Minnesota.....	.....	.....	

TABLE No. 5.

Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Uniform and in Line on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	3	10	Missouri.....	65	30
California.....	5	11	Nebraska.....	72	20
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....	74	50
Connecticut.....	6	42	New Jersey.....	8	45
Gulf.....			New York.....	168	58
Illinois.....	26	60	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	336	25	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	16	195
Kansas.....	57	58	Rhode Island.....	10	35
Kentucky.....	10	28	South Dakota.....	13	24
Maine.....	4	50	Vermont.....	60	23
Maryland.....	1 and 2	20 ea.	Washington.....	4 and 42	28 ea.
Massachusetts.....	2	55	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	2	58	Wisconsin.....	43	23
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 6.

Showing Camp having Greatest Attendance at Memorial Sunday Services in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	1	23	Missouri.....	65	30
California.....	19	31	Nebraska.....	28	37
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....	18	51
Connecticut.....	6	39	New Jersey.....	5 and 8	32
Gulf.....			New York.....	50	80
Illinois.....	26	69	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	169	70	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	16	175
Kansas.....	57	42	Rhode Island.....	10	31
Kentucky.....	10	28	South Dakota.....	13	25
Maine.....	4	45	Vermont.....	17	31
Maryland.....	2	25	Washington.....	4	40
Massachusetts.....	25	69	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	2	52	Wisconsin.....	43	38
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 7.

Showing number of Camps furnishing Firing Squads in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	3	Missouri.....	4
California.....	4	Nebraska.....	11
Colorado.....		New Hampshire.....	3
Connecticut.....	2	New Jersey.....	15
Gulf.....		New York.....	31
Illinois.....	14	Ohio.....	
Indiana.....	14	Oregon.....	
Iowa.....		Pennsylvania.....	70
Kansas.....	30	Rhode Island.....	4
Kentucky.....	1	South Dakota.....	2
Maine.....	8	Vermont.....	2
Maryland.....	5	Washington.....	10
Massachusetts.....	17	West Virginia.....	
Michigan.....	18	Wisconsin.....	10
Minnesota.....			

TABLE No. 8.

Showing number of Addresses delivered by Members of the Order on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	11	Missouri	21
California.....	9	Nebraska	9
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	5
Connecticut.....	11	New Jersey.....	9
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	41
Illinois.....	39	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	20	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	54
Kansas.....	38	Rhode Island.....	4
Kentucky.....	9	South Dakota.....	6
Maine.....	17	Vermont.....	6
Maryland.....	11	Washington.....	8
Massachusetts.....	30	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	7	Wisconsin.....	12
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 9.

Showing number of Camps Observing Union Defenders' Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	7	Missouri.....	17
California.....	2	Nebraska	5
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	7
Connecticut.....	5	New Jersey.....	18
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	40
Illinois.....	14	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	20	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	56
Kansas.....	16	Rhode Island.....	4
Kentucky.....	2	South Dakota.....	2
Maine.....	8	Vermont.....	5
Maryland.....	11	Washington.....	10
Massachusetts.....	63	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	19	Wisconsin.....	8
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 10.

Showing number of Deaths during year past in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	2	Missouri.....	6
California.....	2	Nebraska	5
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	5
Connecticut.....	5	New Jersey.....	6
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	13
Illinois.....	9	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	7	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	36
Kansas.....	9	Rhode Island.....	3
Kentucky	4	South Dakota.....	1
Maine.....	4	Vermont	5
Maryland.	5	Washington.....	3
Massachusetts	18	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	2	Wisconsin.....	3
Minnesota .....	.....	

TABLE No. 11.

Showing number of Funerals attended by Camps in a Body in each Division.

DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.	DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	8	6
California.....	3	1	Nebraska.....	5	5
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....		4
Connecticut.....	3	1	New Jersey.....	44	6
Gulf.....			New York.....	34	13
Illinois.....	43	8	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	20	7	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	145	34
Kansas.....	36	3	Rhode Island.....	2	3
Kentucky.....	5	3	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....	5	2	Vermont.....	4	5
Maryland.....	12	3	Washington.....	8	3
Massachusetts.....	43	16	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	5		Wisconsin.....	7	2
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 12.

Showing number of Burial Services Conducted by Camps in each Division.

DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.	DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	2	5
California.....	1	1	Nebraska.....		5
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....		2
Connecticut.....	1	4	New Jersey.....	2	6
Gulf.....			New York.....	6	8
Illinois.....		3	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	3	4	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	24	24
Kansas.....	3	5	Rhode Island.....		2
Kentucky.....	4	2	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....		1	Vermont.....		
Maryland.....	4	3	Washington.....		1
Massachusetts.....	4	12	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....			Wisconsin.....		
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 13.

Showing number of Camps using Memorial Services, and which, in each Division.

DIVISION.	A.	B.	DIVISION.	A.	B.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	4	7
California.....		1	Nebraska.....	2	4
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....	1	1
Connecticut.....	4	1	New Jersey.....	2	5
Gulf.....			New York.....	9	22
Illinois.....	3	7	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	7	7	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	32	14
Kansas.....	11	14	Rhode Island.....		3
Kentucky.....	2	3	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....	5	8	Vermont.....	1	4
Maryland.....	3	3	Washington.....	2	8
Massachusetts.....	9	17	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	5	11	Wisconsin.....	2	2
Minnesota.....					

DIVISION.	No. Camps Reporting	No. Camps Not Reporting	Total No. Camps	Percentage Reporting	Total Membership of Camps.	No. Brothers in line Memorial Day.	No. Brothers in line Armed.	No. Brothers in line Uniformed.	No. Camps Furling.	No. Addressed by Members of Order.	No. Brothers at Memorial Sunday Services.	No. Camps Union Defenders' Day.	No. Deaths in Divisions.	Funerals Attended.		Burial Services Conducted.		Memorial Service Used.		Report Received at Headquarters.	ROSTER OF DIVISION CHAPLAINS.	
														G. A. R. S. of V.	G. A. R. S. of V.	G. A. R. S. of V.	"A."	"B."				
Ala. and Tenn.	19	0	19	100	365	173	...	20	3	11	131	7	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	Aug. 18.	Harry L. Veazey.
California	11	1	12	91%	302	207	35	41	4	9	159	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	Aug. 3.	W. F. Mason.	
Colorado	25	0	25	100	820	451	172	406	2	11	342	5	5	5	3	1	1	4	1	June 23.	Harry A. Carrigan.	
Gulf	53	29	82	64.23-100	1463	1049	355	425	14	39	885	14	9	9	43	8	...	3	3	Aug. 23.	George W. Estover.	
Illinois	37	19	56	65	1072	875	132	212	14	20	609	20	7	7	20	7	3	4	7	July 8.	Rev. H. G. Ogden.	
Indiana	64	13	77	83	1472	1056	302	380	30	38	981	16	9	...	36	3	5	11	14	June 30.	Rev. T. B. Lawrence.	
Kansas	12	2	14	85.5-7	951	773	64	118	1	9	122	2	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	Aug. 3.	John J. Daisly.	
Kentucky	49	1	50	98	1433	814	249	607	8	17	736	8	4	5	3	4	1	5	5	June 17.	Rev. Geo. E. Leighton.	
Maine	24	3	27	89	500	245	89	193	5	11	233	11	4	1	12	3	4	3	8	July 15.	H. S. Shermerhorn.	
Maryland	49	3	52	90	1000	600	249	607	8	17	736	8	4	1	12	3	4	3	8	June 27.	T. Eiehoffell.	
Massachusetts	134	3	137	98	4377	3205	589	2921	17	30	2589	18	4	13	44	6	2	2	5	Aug. 2.	Julius W. Cogart.	
Michigan	37	10	47	78.7-10	932	728	350	657	18	7	573	19	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	July 24.	John C. Berthold.
Minnesota	33	14	47	70	735	392	30	231	4	21	301	17	6	...	8	2	5	4	4	July 2.	J. A. Beck.	
Missouri	35	14	49	70	636	338	107	89	11	9	335	7	5	...	5	3	5	2	4	Aug. 11.	Rev. E. W. Dow.	
Nebraska	20	0	20	100	591	445	61	367	3	5	346	7	5	...	4	6	2	1	5	Aug. 12.	John L. Regier.	
New Hampshire	27	0	27	100	787	412	248	351	16	9	388	18	6	...	34	6	8	9	22	July 8.	W. C. Gray.	
New Jersey	93	22	115	80.10-11	1169	944	522	310	31	41	621	40	13	...	18	6	...	...	...	...	...
New York
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania	120	38	158	76	5098	3269	1683	2611	70	54	2456	56	36	...	145	34	24	24	32	July 9.	Eden N. Ballantine.	
Rhode Island	14	0	14	100	598	213	120	183	4	4	177	4	1	...	2	2	2	2	3	June 16.	Rev. F. B. Cole.	
South Dakota	15	0	15	100	271	172	79	229	2	6	135	2	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	June 23.	R. J. Courtney.
Texas	23	0	23	100	580	266	54	229	2	6	275	5	3	...	5	...	...	...	...	Aug. 3.	Arthur I. Howe.
Vermont	16	16	32	50	391	352	134	153	10	8	253	10	3	...	8	3	...	1	2	July 2.	Amos O. Buker.	
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Totals	193	1083	1276	82	24279	16191	5351	10666	278	377	12791	339	153	432	125	54	88	104	143	Aug. 15.	T. J. Snodgrass.	

RECAPITULATION.

No. Divisions reporting to date..... 22
 No. Divisions not reporting to date..... 7
 Percentage..... 75.25 29
 Divisions not reporting Gulf, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, Ohio, West Virginia, Iowa.

66 2/3 per cent. of members in line Memorial Day.
 33 1/3 per cent. of these armed.
 66 per cent. of these uniformed.
 52 2/3 per cent. of members at Sunday Services.
 33 per cent. of Camps observed Union Defenders' Day.

TABLE No. 14.
Comparative Statement.

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1897
1 Number of Divisions reporting.....	17	19	22	22	21	29	29	28	22
2 Number of Divisions not reporting.....	10	11	11	9	11	1	...	.....	7
3 Number of Camps reporting.....	751	1030	976	1055	1028	1011	1043	1142	890
4 Number of Camps not reporting.....	....	....	....	760	780	515	288	386	193
5 Percentage of Camps reporting.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	78	75	82
6 No. of Brothers belonging to Camps.....	....	....	29841	32285	32559	32012	31795	31556	24279
7 No. of Brothers in line Memorial Day.....	15589	16437	19957	20432	20281	18619	19918	20621	16197
8 No. of Brothers armed and in line Memorial Day.....	3648	3689	4863	5673	....	....	....	5662	5381
9 No. of Brothers uniformed and in line Memorial Day.....	9244	9328	11619	13259	13447	13014	14182	13675	10666
10 No. of Firing Squads furnished.....	....	....	193	212	264	277	333	347	278
11 No. of Addresses made by Sons of Vet- erans.....	....	....	182	163	212	221	256	432	377
12 No. of Brothers attending Memorial Sunday Services.....	11370	12564	13839	14115	15935	14166	15903	16954	12791
13 No. of Camps observing Union Defend- ers' Day.....	....	....	....	....	370	311	357	350	339
14 No. of Deaths in Division during last twelve months.....	89	119	123	168	180	185	207	163	153
15 No. of Funerals attended by Camps in a body.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	{ G.A.R. 419	{ 432
16 No. of Burial Services conducted by Camps.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	{ S.V. 128	{ 125
17 Number of Camps using Memorial Services.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	{ G.A.R. 63	{ 54
								{ S.V. 79	{ 88
								{ A. 59	{ 104
								{ B. 178	{ 142

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The several reports will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports under the rule, if the Encampment is willing that they shall be referred in this way. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none and the reports will be so referred. The Chair is now prepared to entertain a motion to take recess, in order to permit the committees to go ahead with their work.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move we now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRANK J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, I move that this Encampment do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole and retire to the Nebraska Headquarters at the Denison Hotel for the purpose of sampling some cigars furnished by the Commercial Club of Omaha.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of opinion that no motion is necessary on that subject. The Chair has no doubt that the Nebraska delegation will be able to dispose of those cigars without one.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, in view of the fact that there has been no second to General Abbott's motion, I move that the Commandery do now take recess until two o'clock this afternoon.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will the brother from Iowa permit the Chair to ask the intention of the motion to take recess until two o'clock?

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, the intention is to proceed with our work. We place our time for convening so far ahead that we do not succeed in doing the business which we have come here from great distance to attend to. We neglect matters of great importance by taking these long recesses now, and then crowd the business all into the later sessions of the Commandery. There is certainly a great many matters that can legally come before this Commandery-in-Chief this afternoon and be disposed of after due consideration.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of order. I believe my motion was seconded. I insist upon it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is under the impression that Past Commander Abbott's motion was seconded.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, there is no business that can be attended to this afternoon. There is nothing that the Commandery can do until we have the reports of the various committees.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no business that can come before this convention in precedence of the report of the committees. I understand the purpose of the motion of Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott is that the business of the Encampment may be expedited by giving the committees time to consider the matters that are to come before them and to prepare reports to be submitted to us to-morrow. I can say on behalf of the Council-in-Chief that they will be ready to report with the other committees just appointed, and that we will be enabled to have a continuous business session to-morrow and will be able to dispose of all matters that are to come before us. I believe that is the reason for your motion, General Abbott?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Chicago: It is, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that the adjournment until nine o'clock to-morrow morning does not give the committees too much time, if we are to accept the hospitality of the City of Indianapolis to-night.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I am of the opinion that if we adjourn until four o'clock this afternoon some of the committees will be prepared to report at that time. I am certain the Committee on Resolutions can have at least a partial report ready by that time and we can get to work and do something. I think it is better not to leave everything until to-morrow. I think the adjournment had better be until four o'clock this afternoon.

RECESS UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I move to amend General Abbott's motion, that the Commandery take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning, by substituting four o'clock p. m. of to-day.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, I second that motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the amendment accepted by the original mover?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I do not wish to delay this Encampment, but as a member of a committee that has a great deal to do I desire and hope that we will be ready to present a report to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, but I have just as great desire to participate in the consideration of matters that may come up at four o'clock as any other brother here. I feel that in justice to my Division I should be here representing my Division at four o'clock, but if I must come here at four o'clock I cannot do my share of the committee work. I feel that we can come here just as well to-morrow morning and do our work well and push it through, and we should have this afternoon to attend to the work in committee. The brothers want to see this beautiful city. To-morrow afternoon there will be a parade and there will be plenty to do, and the recess this afternoon will furnish the only opportunity brothers will have for seeing the beautiful sights of this city. The rest of the time is all mortgaged. I do not see what the Encampment could do this afternoon if we were to meet.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is a motion to substitute four o'clock this afternoon for nine o'clock to-morrow morning in the motion submitted by General Abbott. The original mover does not accept the amendment. The question is on the amendment. Any remarks?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to state just a few words. My object in moving to amend the motion of General Abbott to adjourn till nine o'clock to-morrow morning is this: It is barely possible that some one of these committees may be ready to report at four o'clock. I think there is very little doubt but that the report of the Council-in-Chief can be ready by four o'clock; but even in the event that none of these reports are ready I believe this report of the Committee on Credentials will be ready for consideration at that time. It is barely possible that this supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials will create some discussion. We will have more time to consider it this afternoon than to-morrow. We can dispose of that to-day, and to-morrow morning

we will be ready to take up the reports of the standing committees and have ample time to give them full consideration. In the event we meet here at four o'clock and there is no business ready to come before us it is a simple matter to adjourn until to-morrow. It seems to be wise to take that precaution. At least come here, and if there be no business then adjourn until nine o'clock. I believe that is to the best interest of the Encampment. I believe it will tend to serve the convenience of the majority here. As to the presence of the members of the committees they cannot be present at all sessions of the Encampment. It never has been so at any of the past sessions of the Commandery-in-Chief. Members of the committees always have to do a considerable part of their work while the Commandery is in session, and members of the important committees cannot be present both at the committee meetings and the Commandery meetings. They would not be able to do so to-morrow any more than to-day.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the amendment to take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of the amendment will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it and the amendment is carried. Before I put the question on the motion as amended I desire to say on behalf of Brother Bookwalter, chairman of the Local Committee, that they have badges for the members of the Encampment, which the Quartermaster-General will distribute. The brothers will present themselves at the Quartermaster-General's desk as their names are called by the Adjutant-General and receive their delegate badges. Brother Bookwalter informs me that if there is not sufficient now there is more coming on the noon train. Every delegate, every member of the Encampment, is to be supplied with a souvenir badge.

The question now recurs on the motion as amended to take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. All in favor of the motion will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it and the Encampment takes recess until four o'clock this afternoon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Four o'clock P. M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief, I find on inspection that all present are entitled to remain.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the delegates entitled to vote in this Encampment will be good enough to move forward and allow those that are not entitled to vote to remain in the rear seats it will greatly facilitate the business of the Encampment; the stenographer can then more readily recognize the makers of the motions and there will be less probability of question arising as to the validity of a vote. The Adjutant-General will proceed with the calling of the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll. (Roll call No. 2).

T. Z. MORROW, of Kentucky: Commander, the Division of Kentucky was omitted in the calling of the roll.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the Division of Kentucky was omitted because the Committee on Credentials has not yet taken up the credentials of that Division. They are in, however, and will be acted upon.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, my name was not called. I was present.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there are any whose names have been omitted in the calling of the roll they will just report to the Adjutant-General's desk and be marked present. The Committee on Credentials will meet in the ante-room to the right of the Chair immediately. If any of the delegates have not received their delegate badges they can have them by calling on the Quartermaster-General. The Chair is informed that the Council-in-Chief is ready to report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

C. A. Borin, secretary of the Council-in-Chief, submitted the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in Sixteenth Annual Encampment:

COMMANDER AND BROTHERS:—The Council-in-Chief met at Louisville, Ky., September 10, 1896, and organized by the election of F. W. Myers chairman and C. Borin secretary.

During the year no matter of importance was presented to the Council-in-Chief for their action.

Pursuant to the order of the Commander-in-Chief the Council-in-Chief met at Indianapolis, Ind., September 8, 1897, and examined all books and accounts of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, recording receipts and disbursements for the term ending August 23, 1897. The books and accounts of these officers were found to be accurate and complete and most creditable to the especial fitness shown by the brothers holding these most responsible positions. The cash on hand August 23, 1897, as shown by the cash balance and cash counted, was \$1,159.91.

We recommend:

1. That the Quartermaster-General contract for 3,000 copies of the proceedings of this Encampment, to be ready for distribution within ninety days, and to be edited under the direction of the outgoing administration.
2. The per capita tax be fixed at 20 cents for the current Commandery year.

The Council-in-Chief desires to warmly commend the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General for the neatness, accuracy and systematic methods shown in their records and accounts and for the efficient and economic administration of the business of the Commandery as transacted by the Quartermaster-General.

F. W. MYERS,
R. M. BUCKLEY,
J. HOWARD HEINE,
LEO W. KENNEDY,
C. BORIN,

Council-in-Chief.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire: Commander, I move that we accept the report of the Council-in-Chief.

WALTER E. DUNCAN, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I would like to inquire of the mover of that motion whether his motion contemplates the adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the Council-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The motion would certainly have that effect. Without any qualification the acceptance of this report would accept the recommendations contained therein.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Then, Commander, I move to amend the motion that the report of the Council-in-Chief be received.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I move as a substitute motion that the reception of the report of the Council-in-Chief be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

C. T. SPACKMAN, of Illinois: Commander, I will second Brother Orner's substitute motion.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, it was my intention in moving to accept the report that we should accept the report and act on the recommendations later.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : If you accept the report of the committee you must necessarily accept their recommendations.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, I did not intend my motion to conclude action on the recommendations.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Then I understand your motion means exactly the same as Brother Orner's, that the report of the committee be received and the recommendations therein contained be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports. Brother Crowley then accepts Brother Orner's substitute motion ?

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Yes, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, you have heard the motion, that the report of the Council-in-Chief be accepted, and the recommendations therein contained be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Commander, what would be the effect of that motion ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The effect of the motion will be that the matter will simply come before this body again through the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Then the effect of it would be simply to lay it upon the table.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The effect of it is to send it to that committee.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN : Commander, it has been the custom in the past for the Council-in-Chief to make its report direct to the Encampment. The matters contained therein, so far as the recommendations are concerned, must necessarily be acted upon by this Encampment. We are in just as good position now to act upon these recommendations and can act upon them just as intelligently now as we will be when they have gone through the hands of another committee. The Council-in-Chief is better qualified, in view of the close examination which they have made of the financial affairs of the Order, to make recommendations to this Encampment than any other committee. No other committee has had its opportunity to know of the financial affairs of the Order, and it occurs to me that we are simply consuming time if we place these matters in the hands of another committee. They can be just as well acted upon at the present time as hereafter. I, therefore, move as a substitute for the motion pending, that the report of the Council-in-Chief be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York : Commander, I second the motion. Having myself been Quartermaster-General, and knowing the responsibilities of the Council-in-Chief, knowing the capabilities of the individual members, knowing the opportunities they have of examining the books and acquainting themselves thoroughly with the needs of the Order, I feel that their recommendations should be concurred in. I, therefore, heartily second the substitute of Brother Loebenstein.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The substitute motion, then, if it prevails, will not only receive the report, but will adopt the recommendations contained therein. You so understand, brothers. Do you care to discuss the question ?

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, if this motion prevails it changes our Constitution. The present per capita tax is sixteen cents and this recommends a change to twenty cents. That is a change in the Constitution of the Order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Is the brother sure it is ? Will the brother kindly point out the section of the Constitution wherein it is provided that the per capita tax shall be sixteen cents ? (Cries of "question," "question.")

THE CAMP GUARD: Commander, Colonel Hogland, (?) of Louisville, the Kentucky newsboys' friend, is without and would like to be received.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Inspector-General will receive Colonel Hogland. The brother is in error in regard to the Constitution specifying a per capita tax of sixteen cents, and as the Encampment is likely to be misled by his remarks, the Chair will read Section I of Article 3, page 52, of the C., R. and R., which says:

"The Commandery-in-Chief shall, at its stated yearly meeting, assess a per capita tax on each Division of not exceeding twenty cents on each and every member in good standing."

That is the only provision in the Constitution in reference to the per capita tax. Is there any further discussion on the motion? (Cries of "question," "question.")

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I ask for a re-reading of those recommendations.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the recommendations of the Council-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General read the recommendations as follows:

"We recommend:

1. That the Quartermaster-General contract for three thousand copies of the proceedings of this Encampment, to be ready for distribution within ninety days, and to be edited under the direction of the outgoing administration.

2. The per capita tax be fixed at twenty cents for the current Commandery year."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Now, brothers, the question is on the adoption of the report and concurrence in the recommendations therein contained. You understand the question? All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion appears to be carried. (Calls for a division). Who calls for a division? (No response). The motion is carried. Are there any further committees ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I would like to say for the Committee on Resolutions that we would be very glad if the brothers having any resolutions to be submitted to us would get them in our hands just as quickly as possible. We do not want to have all the work to do just in the last hours of the convention.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Committee on Resolutions requests any individuals, Camps and Divisions having resolutions to submit to pass them over to the committee as quickly as possible. Is the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations ready to report? Is the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies ready to report? Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, the Committee on Resolutions is not ready to report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me a very important matter that the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work make a report as quickly as possible. The dispatch of the business of this Encampment depends largely upon that committee. The other committees can do nothing until the work is distributed, and that should be done at the earliest practical moment. It seems to me that this is the most urgent matter just at the present time.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Reed is unquestionably right. Is there any member of that committee present? There seems to be none and we are unable to proceed further until we have the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials. If there is no objection the Encampment will be at rest until the Credential Committee is ready to report.

The Chair will declare a recess. (4.40 P. M.)

5.25 P. M.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. We will now hear the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the Committee on Credentials beg leave to report the following brothers entitled to a seat and vote in the Encampment from the Indiana Division in addition to those already reported:

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

Past Division Commander John E. Edmunson.

Substitute Delegate James W. Noel.

I would like that the brothers would kindly answer to their names as called, if they are present.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brothers apparently did not understand; this is a supplemental report of the Credentials Committee. As the names are called the brothers will answer and be accredited upon the roll.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I will call the names again.

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, do I understand that these brothers are going to be seated without any action of the Encampment accepting this report?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Committee on Credentials are just presenting their report.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: These brothers will not be accredited unless the action of the Committee on Credentials is approved by the Encampment. I will now call the names of the brothers recommended as entitled to seats by the committee:

IN THE INDIANA DIVISION.

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

Past Division Commander John E. Edmunson.

Substitute Delegate James W. Noel.

IN THE NEW YORK DIVISION.

John V. B. Clarkson.

IN THE ILLINOIS DIVISION.

Past Division Commander S. E. Thomasson.

IN THE PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION.

Substitute Delegate W. N. Hall.

Substitute Delegate Walter E. Duncan.

IN THE MARYLAND DIVISION.

Substitute Delegate Charles Davis.

DIVISION OF ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Past Division Commander H. L. Veazey.

Delegate-at-Large H. T. Cooper.

Delegate J. J. Straub.

DIVISION OF IOWA.

Past Division Commander John H. Pickett.

DIVISION OF OHIO.

E. H. Archer, Delegate.

Charles T. Scheid, (?) Substitute.

DIVISION OF KENTUCKY.

Division Commander T. Z. Morrow, Jr.
 Past Commander George H. Capito.
 Past Commander W. R. Heflin.
 Past Commander W. N. Evans.
 Past Commander Will A. Field.
 Past Commander B. F. McClellan.
 Delegate-at-Large Thomas T. Fogle.
 Delegate J. Sherman Steele.

That is the entire report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials. What is your pleasure?

LEWIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, I would like to ask if the name of F. C. Raymond (?) has not been presented.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Yes, sir; he is on the roll. We accredited him by the withdrawal of the substitute.

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, was Brother Matthews' name entered as delegate-at-large?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: It is, because the substitute has been withdrawn.

T. Z. MORROW, JR., of Kentucky: Commander, the alternate of the delegate-at-large of Kentucky that is present, Joseph F. Baggs, was not called.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: His name is on the roll all right.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, what is your pleasure as to the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I move that the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials be adopted and the committee continued.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials be received and the committee continued. Any remarks?

BROTHER J. E. EDMUNSON'S CASE.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, in the report of the committee they recommend the seating of Brother Edmunson as a Past Commander from the Division of Indiana. Upon an examination of the roll-calls of the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth National Encampments we find that Brother Edmunson was never reported and never accredited as a Past Commander of the Indiana Division. It is claimed—and I know nothing to the contrary—that Brother Edmunson did serve as a provisional Commander of the Indiana Division in the early days of the Division. Subsequent to that time, or prior to the Eighth National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Brother Edmunson dropped out of the Order, his Camp was disbanded, or he was dropped by his Camp. Subsequent to the Anderson Encampment of the Indiana Division, a little more than two years, the Camp at Bloomington, Indiana, sought to re-muster Brother Edmunson and at the same time restore his past rank. It was found that his past rank could not be restored by a re-muster, but it was thought that by the issuance of a Transfer Card from Division Headquarters, after the lapse of five or six years in which the gentleman had been out of the Order, that he could be again received into this Camp and regain his past rank. That was the course that was pursued. Mr. Edmunson was received into the Camp at Bloomington, Indiana, and reported by the then Commander of the Indiana Division. That action was simply the conclusion of the Division officers of Indiana as to Mr. Edmunson's standing in the Order, and has no effect and no force upon this Encampment as to whether or not Mr. Edmunson is a Past Commander of the Order and entitled as such to a seat in this Encampment. In this connection I desire to read a decision of the Com-

mander-in-Chief, which is exactly in line, as he would undoubtedly rule in the case of Mr. Edmunson as he has in the case of this brother. I do not know whether this was a case sent up for a decision upon the case here shown, or whether it was a hypothetical case sent to the Commander-in-Chief for a decision in Mr. Edmunson's case. The decision is No. 9, by Commander-in-Chief Rake, dated the 17th day of March, 1897:

DECISION IX.

READING, PA., March 17, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbee, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—To the general question which you submit, "A Past Captain of a Camp which was disbanded in June, 1894, and never reinstated, is given a transfer card by the Division Commander in February, 1897, he having been shown to be in good standing in his Camp at the time of its disbandment, and he immediately deposits his card in and becomes a member of another Camp. Is he now entitled to rank as a Past Captain?" I answer, no.

The life of a transfer card is clearly indicated by the C., R. and R., and if at the expiration of one year the holder has not availed himself of its privileges, and is, in consequence, considered as honorably discharged, it would seem to be only equitable that the power to grant a transfer after one year from the date of disbandment of a Camp should not be exercised.

It is true that Chapter II, Article IV, Section 4, distinctly says, "Members of disbanded Camps, who were in good standing at the time of such dissolution, shall receive from their Division Commander, etc., etc.," but certainly the intent of this language is that such transfers shall be issued at or about the time of the disbandment of the Camp. Should the Division Commander, through any neglect, fail to issue such transfers, members entitled to receive them would have their remedy. The very fact that a past officer had been content to rest without his rightful certificate of standing for a period of nearly three years would indicate that he had but little interest in his past rank. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

With this decision before you, and the explanation, which I believe cannot be questioned, I leave the matter for your decision. It is not my purpose to try to reduce the representation of the Indiana Division. If I felt that Mr. Edmunson was entitled to his past rank, there is no man in this Encampment that would be more glad to see him receive it; but I am opposed to the creation of Past Division Officers by such methods, which are simply the conclusion of Division Officers as to the standing of a Division Officer in the Order.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, in exoneration of the action of the Committee on Credentials, which held this Indiana matter open on two brothers, Colonel William H. Armstrong and John E. Edmunson, I will state that when the Committee on Credentials reported that they were entitled to a seat it was upon this certificate:

"To H. H. Hammer, Adjutant General, and the Credential Committee of the Sixteenth National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS: This is to certify that Colonel William H. Armstrong and John E. Edmunson are Past Colonels of the Indiana Division in good standing and have not been dropped nor suspended from the Order.

(Signed) R. S. THOMPSON,

HORACE S. STILLWELL,

Division Commander.

Assistant Adjutant Indiana Division."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I do not understand that anyone is criticizing the Committee on Credentials who have given their source of authority; but objection is made to the case of Brother Edmunson. Are there any further remarks?

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander-in-Chief, I am not prepared to question the statement of facts that Quartermaster-General Loebenstein has given. I do not know whether he has given the facts as facts

from the record, of which he has personal knowledge, or whether he is giving us his inferences. Neither do I know myself of the facts before the Knoxville Encampment. I have no personal knowledge of them. I do know this, that the Indiana Division for sometime, perhaps from the time of its organization and for the last three or four years to my personal knowledge, has regarded Brother Edmunson as a Past Colonel of the Indiana Division. I do know this, that the record shows that the Fourteenth Annual Encampment, held at Knoxville, Tennessee, ratified the conclusion of the Indiana Division. The question was then passed upon by the Credential Committee of that Encampment. That committee reported in favor of Brother Edmunson, and the report of that committee was accepted and adopted by the National Encampment, and we now cannot get behind the action of that Encampment. The certificate of R. S. Thompson, the Commander of the Indiana Division, shows that Brother Edmunson is a Past Colonel, that he has not been suspended or dropped, and I know of my own personal knowledge that he has not been suspended or dropped since the Knoxville Encampment, where the conclusion, if it was no more than the conclusion of the Commander of the Indiana Division, was ratified by the National body. I hold that the matter since that time is settled.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Will Brother Noel permit me to interrupt him? I would like to inquire whether Brother Noel is willing to state that Mr. Edmunson has never been suspended or dropped since the date of his certificate as Commander of the Indiana Division.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, in answer to that question permit me to say that, as I said in the beginning, I have no personal knowledge of the history of Colonel Edmunson from the time he was Commander up to the time of the Knoxville Encampment; but I say, from a legal standpoint, whatever the conclusion was at that time, it was ratified by that Encampment and this Encampment cannot go behind the certificate of the Colonel of the Indiana Division that he is a Past Colonel and that he has not been dropped or suspended. I think the Judge Advocate-General will bear me out in that statement.

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I was Commander of the Indiana Division at the time this question came up, and was the Commander who issued the transfer card to Brother Edmunson. The question was presented to me by the Bloomington Camp, which Brother Edmunson afterwards joined, or transferred to, and was fully investigated at that time. The fact was laid before Commander-in-Chief William F. Bundy, of Ohio, and he passed upon it. I was a member of the Committee on Credentials at the Encampment at Knoxville and the question was there fully discussed. Adjutant-General Speelman, who had investigated the matter with General Bundy, was there at the time and made his statement of facts to the Committee on Credentials; and the report was made that Brother Edmunson was entitled to admission into the Encampment as a Past Commander of the Indiana Division, and that report was adopted and ratified by the Encampment. I maintain that, having investigated the facts fully and completely, the Division Commander acted honestly and according to the Constitution; and that upon the mere statement of a brother upon this floor that the Commander-in-Chief did not do his duty, we cannot go behind the returns of that Encampment and the return of the Commander-in-Chief at that time. I know that Brother Loebenstein has made this statement. He has made the statement upon the authority of information that he received from the Bloomington Camp prior to the muster of Brother Edmunson into the Camp. The facts that he states are disputed, at least inferentially, by the fact that the Commander of the Division at the time issued a transfer card to Brother Edmunson. It ought to be supposed that the Division Commander acted according to the Constitution of the Order when his action was ratified by the Commandery-in-Chief at its subsequent session. I do not believe that after Brother Edmunson has been allowed to vote in this Encampment—and he would have been had he been present—after the Committee on Credentials has adopted the conclusions of the Division Commander and the Commander-in-Chief, that upon the mere statement of one brother upon the authority of a letter received from another brother, this Encampment should say that Brother Edmunson is not entitled to membership in the Indiana Division.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: May I ask the brother a question?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Certainly.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to ask Brother Martin, who was Division Commander at that time, if it is not a fact that Mr. Edmunson had been out of the Order for a number of years; if it was not sought first to re-muster him into the Bloomington Camp, and when they found that would not restore his past rank, if a transfer card was not then issued; if he was not out of the Order four or five years?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, the question was never presented to me whether they should re-muster him as a new member or not. The committee wrote to me and asked me for a transfer card for Brother Edmunson. I investigated the record and found he was in good standing at the time of the disbandment of the Camp, and a transfer card was issued to him in accordance therewith.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me that the brother has not answered the Quartermaster-General's question, and for my own information I should like to have that question answered. Brother Loebenstein has stated that the brother was out of the Order for a number of years and the Indiana brothers have not specifically answered that. I would like to know if they know whether or not Brother Edmunson was out of the Order for a number of years?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I will say that I do not think he was.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: The record shows that he was.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me then that it is not quite fair for them to challenge the statement of the Quartermaster-General when he states positively that he was out of the Order for a number of years, for five or six years, and that he was not accredited as a delegate to the National Encampments.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, what is the motion?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion is to accept the report of the Committee on Credentials and continue the committee.

NEWTON J. MCGUIRE, of Indiana: Commander, I just want to say a word in verification of what has been said on the part of the Indiana delegation, that Past Commander J. E. Edmunson was accredited as a Past Commander at the Knoxville Encampment. I have the proceedings here—I guess it is not denied, however—which shows that the Indiana delegation consisted of Past Commanders William H. Armstrong, J. E. Edmunson, George C. Harvey, John W. Newton, Newton J. McGuire and Frank Martin. Now, of course, we have all understood the statement made by Quartermaster-General Loebenstein. The facts in this case seem to be in dispute, but I think from my past investigation of the matter that J. E. Edmunson is entitled to his past rank. Now, if it is true that the Credentials Committee have acted upon the certificate of the Division Commander, certified by his Adjutant under seal, we know that J. E. Edmunson is entitled to a vote. We know also that it has been recommended by the Committee on Credentials that he be seated. I believe that the delegates to this Encampment will agree with me when I say that you cannot go back on those returns and base your opinion upon a statement of any member of the Encampment. We all have great respect for General Loebenstein, but he speaks without an investigation, without the facts being presented. We must have the evidence as to those facts. I do not think that General Loebenstein will state to the Encampment that he knows of his personal knowledge that J. E. Edmunson was dropped from the Order for any length of time. I do not believe that the Encampment has any evidence of that fact. I believe that the evidence points otherwise, but certainly if the Encampment has no evidence to that effect it cannot go back of the regular returns. (Cries of "question," "question.")

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is called for upon the adoption of the supplemental report of the Credential Committee and the continuance of the same. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The motion is carried. Are there any other committees ready to report? Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report? The Committee on Resolutions? The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? We appear to be in the same condition that we were before.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE PER CAPITA TAX.

ED. K. DEPUY, of Maryland: Mr. President, I move you, sir, that the Encampment reconsider its action in reference to increasing the *per capita* tax from sixteen to twenty cents. In this connection I want to say that the Maryland Division would feel this extra expense greatly. We are struggling along with a membership barely sufficient to pay the actual expenses of the Division, and I sincerely hope that the Encampment will reconsider its action with the view of placing the *per capita* tax at sixteen cents as before. That is all I want to say on the subject.

R. J. BOSWORTH, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the action of this Encampment adopting the second recommendation of the Council-in-Chief increasing the per capita tax from sixteen to twenty cents be reconsidered. Are you ready for the question? All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. The original motion to adopt the report and the recommendations of the Council-in-Chief is now before you.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I felt when we had voted for that recommendation that we did it relying on the wisdom of the Council-in-Chief and their knowledge of the financial condition of the Order. I did it in good faith, believing that the Council-in-Chief had looked over the ground and were familiar with the wants and the requirements of the Order; and before we vote again I would like the Council-in-Chief to tell us what information they have and why they believe it is necessary to increase the per capita tax. I believe they will be sustained, as they were in the first place; that if it is necessary to make the per capita tax twenty cents the Commandery-in-Chief will do it; but I think it would be well for the Council-in-Chief to state the facts on which they based their recommendation.

R. M. BUCKLEY, of Kentucky: Commander, as a member of the Council-in-Chief, that question was before us this morning. First yesterday, by the reading of the report of the Quartermaster-General—a report that will be later read before this body—that report shows, my brothers, that in the last three or four years of the Commandery-in-Chief our surplus has grown smaller and smaller each year. After the expenses of this Commandery-in-Chief are paid, the printing of the proceedings, etc., we will not have a dollar left here for the incoming administration to take charge of. While some of us thought twenty cents might be a little large we could think of no other way that we could get for the Commandery-in-Chief revenue sufficient to run the organization. The recommendation of the Council-in-Chief was not one that we liked to make, but we made it in good faith, and we want every brother in this house to express his opinion on the subject and say how it will affect his division or his Camp. Now, if you will hear an explanation from General Loebenstein I think the members of this body will vote for that recommendation. It may seem a little high in these hard times, but, my brothers, we felt compelled to do it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Has Brother Loebenstein any explanation to make?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander-in-Chief, the best explanation that I can make is to read that section of my report to this body, which was considered by the Council-in-Chief, and then submit some figures. In my report I say:

I feel it my duty to call to your attention what may prove a serious menace to the Order. No complaint has been made, or can be justly made, that the affairs of the Order have been otherwise than economically administered. But our revenues are being constantly reduced and our surplus is being rapidly extinguished. At the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration our surplus was \$5,685.00. This surplus was reduced to \$5,138.50 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Hall's term of office; increased to \$5,176.41 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Maccabe's term; reduced to \$4,190.21 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Bundy's term; further reduced to \$3,601.24 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Russell's term; and again reduced to \$3,030.67 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Rake's term. Emergencies may arise that will necessitate increasing our revenues, and if this Encampment shall again fix the quarterly per capita tax at 4 cents, I am of the opinion that the Council-in-Chief should be empowered to raise the amount of such quarterly per capita tax, should necessity require.

At the date of the closing of my report on the 23d of August last, the cash balance was \$1,160. There has since been added to that amount moneys received by the Adjutant-General from per capita tax and charter fees amounting to \$340, making a total in round numbers of \$1,500. Subsequent to the date of that report there has been paid out at my headquarters amounts aggregating \$100. There was due the Adjutant-General for salary up to the close of this Encampment \$125; due for printing the reports of the officers, \$225. The expenses of this National Encampment will be in the neighborhood of \$650. The printing of the proceedings of this Encampment will become a liability virtually as soon as this Encampment closes, making in addition to the money we have already paid for the printing of these reports, \$325, making a total of \$1,424; which will leave a cash balance at the disposal of the next administration of about \$75 or \$100. No revenue is now due the Commandery-in-Chief until the end of the current term, the September term. Divisions have, under the law, thirty days from that date in which to make reports. In addition to this thirty days they usually take from thirty to sixty days grace, which will bring the matter up to about the first of the year. In the meantime, it will be necessary to contract for certain supplies, the stock of supplies at the close of an administration is usually and necessarily low. It will be necessary to meet the expenditure for rent, for salaries and other incidental expenses, and the revenues of the Commandery-in-Chief will not be of sufficient magnitude to meet these expenditures. Now, my brothers, it is simply a question of choice. Certain revenues must be provided to meet the expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief. We can anticipate this matter now by raising the per capita tax and providing sufficient means, or we can wait until the next Encampment and have your Quartermaster-General and your Adjutant-General report a large amount of liabilities to the Commandery-in-Chief to be paid. I believe it is to the best interest of the organization to anticipate this matter and raise means and have a sufficient amount on hand to meet our bills promptly in the future as in the past. The expenses of the current term have been kept down; had they not been, instead of having a small surplus in cash, we would have had nothing on hand but a number of bills remaining unpaid. Our revenues during the current term have been decreased in round figures \$1,400, and yet the surplus has been reduced less than \$600. We have been trying to run the Order with a membership of about two-thirds of what it was, with the revenues curtailed in the same proportion. We have been running the Order with a per capita tax of four cents a quarter on a membership of thirty-two thousand as against a membership of fifty-four or fifty-five thousand. Now, with a membership of a little over thirty thousand we are trying to run the Order on a per capita tax of four cents a quarter, or sixteen cents a year. This increase in the per capita tax is in my opinion absolutely necessary. It is bound to come sooner or later. We can meet it now, or pay our bills at the next Encampment. It is simply a question of choice. I think the Encampment will coincide with the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief, and fix the per capita tax for the ensuing year at twenty cents.

LEWIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, I would ask if Past Adjutant-General Borin is in the room. If he is we would like to hear

from him his opinion regarding the administration of the finances of the Order.

C. A. BORIN, of Kansas: Commander and brothers, I endorsed this recommendation as a member of the Council-in-Chief. In the meeting of the Council-in-Chief I opposed it. I opposed it in order to get the views and the figures and the statements of those who were in favor of it; in order to get down to the absolute facts in the matter. I opposed it just as this Commandery is opposing it now, until I found out what I believed to be the truth in the matter. I opposed it in order to get the truth, in order to get the facts, and as the facts are presented to me I can see no other way, with the present authorized expenses, of doing the business of the Commandery. I know of no other way of raising the amount necessary to be raised as revenue. In addition to what General Loebenstein has told you you must remember that there is another expenditure that in all probability will be necessarily incurred in the near future, and that is the expense involved in the removal of the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters. Of course that is a contingency that must be considered. If the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters is removed the expenses will be quite considerable. When the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters was removed to its present location the expense was something more than one hundred dollars for freight charges. The Blue Book was ordered to be printed in General Bundy's administration. As a matter of fact there has never been enough funds on hand to pay for the publication of the Blue Book, as the Quartermaster-General will bear me out in saying. Time after time we considered the propriety of going in debt for the publication of the Blue Book, but we could not see our way out; and as cautious business men do not contract debts unless they see some way of paying them, we did not follow out the orders of the Commandery-in-Chief and have the Blue Book published, because we did not have the money to pay for it. So you see, brothers, it seems to be a painful necessity that is upon us. There is no desire to be extravagant upon the part of this Council-in-Chief. There is not anything personal in it. It is not anything that we want. It is a thing that we, as your servants, feel to be a necessity, and for that reason we made the recommendation.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, this is the first Sons of Veterans' Encampment I have attended for some years. I admire very much the close scrutiny of my brothers upon the financial affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief. It was my pleasure to have business of another character with the Quartermaster-General, and it was while the Council was going over his accounts. I am somewhat familiar with Grand Army matters, far more so than I am with the Sons of Veterans, but I have never seen such system, such order and correctness as I witnessed in the accounts of the Quartermaster-General of this grand Encampment of the Sons of Veterans (applause). And then I hear him say, and the Council-in-Chief endorsing his statement, that the financial resources of the Commandery are too small, that the receipts are not sufficient to defray the expenses, though he has been, by the exercise of good judgment and economy, able to reduce and curtail them. I for one have confidence enough in him, and confidence enough in the Council-in-Chief to vote for this recommendation. I trust that this Encampment will vote it because they would not ask for it if it was not necessary. We do not want our officers, in my judgment, to look forward to a deficiency for some other set of officers to provide for. We want to provide for the necessary and current expenses as they shall come in, and I trust that this Encampment will adopt the recommendation that has been made by the Council-in-Chief. (Applause and cries of "question," "question.")

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I know one thing in connection with the Sons of Veterans, and I think I know that well, and I think it applies to every Division in the United States, as well as to the Division of Indiana; and I want to say a word now in behalf of every Division in the United States. They have already fixed their rates of taxation. I call it taxation, my brothers, because that is what it is, nothing more nor less; and I am a man that is in favor of taxation. It is the fundamental principle upon which this government rests; but, gentlemen, I am opposed

to taxation to the death. I know this much, Commander, that never in the history of the four or five National Encampments that I have attended have I known a depleted treasury in the Commandery-in-Chief. And I know another thing, my brothers, that I have been face to face in this Division and in other Divisions in the United States with a great many depleted Division treasuries. In Indiana we have a twelve and a-half per cent. tax upon the brothers with which to pay for the Division headquarters and Division expenses, and upon that theory—

W. W. WHEELER, of Connecticut: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

W. W. WHEELER, of Connecticut: Commander, I rise to inquire whether the brother who is speaking has on the proper regalia of the Order, the badge of the Order?

(Colonel Harvey threw back his coat exhibiting the badge of the Order worn on his vest).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The badge should be worn on the coat, but the brother will proceed.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I know that the rate of taxation in the Indiana Division was fixed upon the basis that the Division would have to pay four cents per quarter per capita tax to the Commandery-in-Chief. It was put at a sum that would enable us to do that, and, we hoped, get out of debt. Now several Divisions that I could name have had depleted treasuries for years. I am not making any apology for the Indiana Division. I am proud of it. I commanded it myself for thirteen months. I know it is a good Division, an average Division, but I know that every Commander from the time of good old Colonel Walker up to the present time has had to fight to the death to keep its head above water with the tax that is already levied. Members have spoken here of what may be done, what expenditures may be voted by this Encampment; but let us levy this at four cents per quarter and order our expenditures upon the basis of the income that will be thus derived. At least defeat this recommendation this time, my brothers. If this thing must come, if these Divisions must go down in their pockets for this additional per capita tax, let them prepare for it in their Division Encampments. Do not put the burden upon them after the Division Encampments have been held and all their financial arrangements made upon the basis that the per capita tax to the Commandery-in-Chief was to be four cents per quarter. Do not put the burden of raising this tax upon the Division Commanders, one cent a quarter on each member more than any of them anticipated, more than the Division anticipated. I say to you that it looks like ruin to more than one Division. Let us vote and talk in this Commandery upon the theory that if the treasury is in danger of being exhausted it must economize the same as individuals have to do, the same as the Divisions have to do (applause). Do not make appropriations here that we cannot meet. We have to meet this thing in our Divisions. We did it at one time in the Indiana Division by adopting a resolution that each delegate to the National Encampment should pay his own expenses. That action was taken, my friends, because the Division could not afford to pay them. Put some tax of that kind upon some of these Commandery-in-Chief officers, and let them get their reward in the honors that they have been reaping throughout the United States, and let them not be drawing upon the treasury day after day, and dollar after dollar (applause); I am not making any personal attack upon any brother, but I say that there is room for economy in our National treasury. Economy has been forced upon our Division and upon other Divisions, both at National Encampments and at home; let the Commandery-in-Chief officers exercise more economy and I pledge my word that it will be found at the next National Encampment at Cincinnati (laughter) that four cents is sufficient.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Do I understand the brother to say that we have already selected the place of meeting for the next Encampment?

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Wherever the Encampment meets, four cents will be found sufficient.

W. R. DAVIS, of Massachusetts: Commander, Brother Harvey has well said that it looks like death to some of these Divisions to increase this tax at this time. I am with him when he says that. I say that it is highly proper that the Commandery-in-Chief should cut corners in some places as well as the Divisions. I know that in my own Division we have been unable to pay expenses that ought to have been paid. We have been unable to send our representatives to the National Encampment unless they could afford to pay their own way. Now it is not the right thing to further decrease the revenues of our Divisions. To do so would make it impossible almost to meet the necessary expenses of the Division within itself. We do not plead any special poverty. We are, as Brother Harvey has said, a fair average Division, and the men in it are fair average men; we do not want to plead poverty, but we do not want to be taxed out of existence, and we do not feel that at this time it is proper to put an additional tax of this kind upon us. We hope that the sense of this Encampment will not be to increase the per capita tax at this time.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, the remarks of Past Commander Harvey were not statements of facts in all particulars. The appropriations which Brother Harvey referred to are not appropriations which it is optional with this Commandery-in-Chief to make or not to make. These liabilities that now stand against us are liabilities which have been incurred and must be paid whether it pleases this Commandery-in-Chief to pay them or not.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, will the gentleman allow me one question? I suppose that the incoming Quartermaster-General will expect a few dollars in on the basis of the four per cent. per capita tax.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: I tried to explain that, Commander, that the revenue would not be available until after the first of the year.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, my point was that the Commandery-in-Chief should economize on what you get in from now on.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, these amounts must be paid. There are bills in now, and there are bills for expenses that will occur between now and the first of the year. We will have current expenses during this time. Our per capita tax for the quarter ending September 30th will not be due until October 30th, and before those funds are available it will be the first of December. We will have received part before, but not much before. These other expenses must be met. The Council-in-Chief at all times in the past in their reports upon the conduct of the affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief have differed widely with the conclusions of Brother Harvey. Brother Harvey comes to the National Encampment and forms his own conclusions hastily and without investigation. The members of the Council-in-Chief audit the books of the organization and examine its affairs closely. There is not the expenditure of one cent by any officer of the Commandery in-Chief for which a receipt is not taken. Every one of these receipts is submitted to the members of the Council-in-Chief; and I cite the gentleman to the reports of the various Councils-in-Chief, in the records of the proceedings of the National Encampments for six or seven or eight years past, and defy him to find one word of criticism; but on the other hand he will find the Commandery-in-Chief officers commended each year for their economical administration of the affairs of the Commandery. No word of criticism upon them has ever been heard within the halls of the Encampment until the criticism made to-day by Colonel Harvey.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I hope the Quartermaster-General did not understand that I am charging dishonesty on the part of any officer of the National Commandery.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: I do not understand that there is any question of honesty or dishonesty in it; that it is

simply a question of economy. That was it exactly. And I maintain that the members of the Council-in-Chief, who have before them in detail the expenditures of the Commandery-in-Chief, are far better qualified to judge of the economy or extravagance of the administration of Commandery-in-Chief affairs than is the gentleman from Indiana, who simply glances at the report and has not had the facilities for examination that are afforded the Council-in-Chief. I have no interest in this matter. I presume that the bills of the Commandery-in-Chief will be paid some time. I will say one thing, that any bills contracted by me as an officer of this organization will be paid in the future as they have been paid in the past, promptly; whether the Commandery-in-Chief had the money to pay for them or not, they were paid promptly and they will be in the future (applause). But it is not policy, it is not right, to ask any officer of this organization to defray its expenses and wait until the revenues come in to remunerate himself. These expenditures must be met. The incoming administration will begin business virtually without a dollar at their disposal until the revenues from the per capita tax for the quarter ending September 30th are at their disposal. The Council-in-Chief make the recommendation that the proceedings shall be put out within ninety days. When they are gotten out they must be paid for. It seems to me that this is purely a business proposition and that the brother from New York placed the matter in the strongest light possible when he said it was not well for this organization to look forward to a deficit. That is most assuredly what we will have to face. Consider the reduction in the surplus in the last five years. You can see that the result is inevitable. The surplus is just about what it was at the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration. We have had able Commanders in this Order. They have tried to administer the affairs of the Order as economically as they could. I do not know of any brother who is getting rich off the Commandery. I do not believe that the services of any officer of the Commandery-in-Chief are overpaid. The men who fill these positions—and I say this without any personal reference, and if it has any I beg the pardon of the Encampment—but the men who filled these positions in the past have been men who could earn larger salaries in any other walk of life. They are not men whose services have been overpaid. They are not men who have sought to drag dollars from the organization. The Commander-in-Chief and staff have a year's hard labor, and they obtain from the Commandery-in-Chief what? Magnificent salaries? No. Simply their expenses to the Annual Encampment where duty calls them. Take the members of the Council-in-Chief, take all the members of the staff with the exception of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, not a cent do they receive for their services, but simply their bare expenses to the Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Loebenstein is making an error that the Chair cannot permit to pass without notice. The Commander-in-Chief has been for a number of years getting a cent a day. You want to be accurate.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: That is true, but the Commander-in-Chief has never insisted upon collecting it. The revenues would be further reduced if he had done so. But in all seriousness this is a matter of importance, and in which oratory should have no place. We have heard about the poor farmer boy. We have heard about the depleted condition of the nation, but on the other hand I can cite you to a number of Divisions, Divisions that have made the greatest progress, and call your attention to the fact that those Divisions to-day will vote as a unit for the increased per capita tax; and with this fact before them it might be well for the brothers who are complaining to look within the bounds of their own Division for the cause, if their Division treasuries are in such sadly depleted condition.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, I would like to call the attention of the Commandery-in-Chief to the profit and loss account in the printed reports which you all have, and you will see there where our income comes from and where our money goes to. I believe in economy. I appreciate everything that the Quartermaster-General has said because I was at one time in the same office and I appreciate the difficulties of it.

You will notice that on the supply account there is a profit. That is as far as the initiative of the Quartermaster-General goes. All of the other income comes from the efforts of the Division Commanders in securing new Camps and in securing the per capita tax from the old Camps. The expenses are very largely fixed by the Commandery-in-Chief, and if a question of economy comes in the gentlemen who are talking against the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General must bring before this meeting some means by which that economy can be secured. Shall we cut down the expenses of the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief? Pay them half? Or pay them nothing? Shall we cut down the salary of the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General? Shall we cut down the rent of the Quartermaster-General's headquarters and the Adjutant-General's office? If you are going to talk about economy we must get upon some definite plan of economy, inasmuch as we gentlemen here fix the expenses which must be paid by the Quartermaster-General. If we desire to have the Commandery officers work an entire year, and insist upon their attendance at our meetings at great expense, well and good. Pay them nothing. Let them come. Let the honor be sufficient. Let them work day in and day out as we all expect them to do and pay them nothing, and then find fault with them because they do not come here, when perhaps they cannot afford it. The life of this Order is right in this meeting here, right in this Commandery-in-Chief. It must be maintained if we are going to have a National Order. Next to that comes the Divisions. For myself I cannot see where the economy is going to come in. I believe we have been as economical as we can consistently with good government. I know what the office of the Adjutant-General is and the duties involved in it. They are very laborious. I know what the duties of the Quartermaster-General are. They are very laborious, and the salary is no adequate compensation. If the gentlemen present will examine the books of the Quartermaster-General they will be delighted. They are model books, model accounts, and they are good enough for any bank in this country. I trust that if the economy, or rather the cutting down of expenses, is to be insisted upon the opponents of the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General and the Council-in-Chief will bring forward some consistent plan by which these economies, which they desire so much, can be brought into perfection. I do not see how they can be. I think they are pretty well down to rock bed, and I favor most earnestly the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General and the Council-in-Chief.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander and brothers, this is not a question of sentiment. It is a question of practical business. I think this Encampment has been enlightened by General Loebenstein's report, his verbal report, at this time. I think we know more of the situation than we did when we opened this discussion, but, gentlemen, there are two sides to the question still. Shall the Commandery-in-Chief tax Divisions out of existence, tax Divisions which are not able to bear it? I can say that the Division of Indiana has had a hard struggle. I know that at the last Division Encampment the condition of affairs was very serious. Colonel Harvey is not speaking because he thinks his Camp does not want to pay this. It is too heavy considering the resources of the Division. At the last Encampment we made up a deficiency, and we raised four hundred dollars on the floor of the Encampment, and Colonel Harvey contributed a large share of that; and the Indiana Encampment fixed their per capita tax in contemplation of the four cent per quarter tax from the Commandery-in-Chief. The resources of the Division are fixed, and the expenditures must be with reference to their resources. They have to economize, and it would be well if a lesson in economy should emanate from the Commandery-in-Chief. I will not say that many of these appropriations are not necessary. They are highly necessary and cannot be dispensed with, but I do believe that the Commandery-in-Chief, that the National body, can retrench in expenditure if necessary; and if it comes to a question whether at the next National Encampment we shall be confronted with a small deficiency in the treasury of the National body, or whether there shall be a deficiency to that amount in the treasury of a half dozen or a dozen Divisions of the Order, I do not know but it had better be found in the National treasury, because here on his floor we can immediately raise the money to meet it. I believe economy should be practiced by the National body, and there should be a desire

to stimulate and help and keep in running order the Divisions ; there should be a feeling that no Division should be discouraged by a forced deficiency which it had no opportunity to anticipate at its State Encampment. I am against the adoption of the recommendation.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, we have had considerable of a discussion on this important subject. I have perfect confidence, and every man that has assembled here to-day has, in the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief. If we had not we would let them go. I have confidence that when they ask for what they do ask, an increase of four cents per annum in the per capita tax, that it is to the interest of each one of us individually and to the best interest of the Order. I do not believe Brother Loebenstein has asked for anything except what is right and just, and it should be voted without any more talking.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Commander, feeling the interest that I do in this Order, believing that it must be maintained, looking forward to its future, I see that something must be done. In my judgment here is a crisis, and unless we act wisely we do not know what will become of the Order. We must not kill the goose that lays the golden egg at this period, and I want to stop to inquire seriously of the different Divisions of this Order and see what they are going to do with this increased expenditure. To-day in Ohio we have a tax of fifty cents upon each member. Sixteen cents of that has been going to the Commandery-in-Chief. Shall the Commandery-in-Chief say that they shall have forty per cent. of the revenues of each State, and each State must be kept up on sixty per cent. of its own revenues ? I think, Commander-in-Chief, if you undertake to increase this per capita tax you will absolutely decrease the receipts of the Commandery-in-Chief (applause) ; you will destroy the goose that lays the golden egg (applause) ; I know how it is in Ohio. They are mostly young men. They are not millionaires. I think it would be better, for one I would rather, that we would go down in our pockets and pay this possible deficiency than say to the different Divisions you shall yield up forty per cent. of your entire revenue and hand it over to the Commandery-in-Chief ; that is what you are going to ask them to do. You know, and the different Division Commanders know, how hard it is to keep up the Order in the different States and pay the per capita tax to-day of sixteen cents. Mark my words—I make the prediction now—if you increase the per capita tax suspensions will increase in the Camps, and you will have less revenue at twenty cents than you are now having at sixteen cents. Another thing, I have no fault to find with any officer of this Encampment ; I have not the slightest doubt but that every one has done his duty and his whole duty. But while that is true, it is also true they would like more resources. There must some way be found for the Commandery-in-Chief to get along until the Order can be recruited upon its present basis. It seems to me, Commander-in-Chief, if you do not do it you are ringing the death knell of this Order. I am speaking not as a prophet, but as a friend of the Order. There must be some reduction. We must bring our expenses within our revenues or the Order is a failure. Now, over in Ohio, we are using every effort in the world. Every Past Commander, every officer, everybody, is putting his shoulder to the wheel, and we are trying to put Ohio back where it was a few years ago. We cannot do it, we will not be able to do it, if you insist upon taxing us more at this time. Some way, by some means, either by a Committee upon Retrenchment and Reform, or in some other way, we have got to do it. The way can be found, Commander-in-Chief, without any doubt whatever. A way can be found to bring expenses within our revenue. I do insist, for the good of this Order, that we allow the per capita tax to stand as it is at the present time, and it occurs to me that there is no question now before this Encampment, in a parliamentary way, and for that reason I move that this report be referred back to the committee with instructions to amend their report by inserting sixteen in place of twenty. Let us try it the same way for another year. (Applause).

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, I second the motion.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, with the experience of fifteen years in this organization, in all my experience I have never known a charter to be surrendered because of an increase of the per capita

tax. I have never known that to occur. I can remember when in the Pennsylvania Division we were two thousand dollars in debt, and we increased our per capita tax and in one year we gained fifty-two Camps with the increased per capita tax. The delegates from Pennsylvania have been sitting here waiting to hear something definite in regard to the suggested retrenchment that has been talked about. We are ready to vote for a reduction of the per capita tax when you point out the way. You have talked retrenchment, but you have failed to point out where it is to come in. I believe the Council-in-Chief are fully cognizant of all the points on this question, and the Quartermaster-General has given us a very plain explanation of what he wants and of the money that will be required. On the other hand the brothers opposed to this recommendation have talked of retrenchment, but they have failed to tell us where we are going to retrench. Now if the brother can tell us of Pennsylvania where we can retrench and how we can get along with sixteen cents we are willing to vote with him, but not without.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, the brother from Pennsylvania accuses us of not telling him how we may retrench. I will ask him a harder question. If we make the assessment of this extra four cents, will he please tell us where the four cents will come from? (Applause).

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Yes, sir, Commander; I believe there is a sufficient amount of patriotism and enthusiasm and American spunk in this organization to pay the other four cents. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I desire to call attention to the fact that we are rapidly approaching seven o'clock and it has been announced that the Governor and others will hold a reception here at eight o'clock. We simply want to bear that in mind. I am quite as much interested as you are in the discussion proceeding at the present time.

RECOMMENDATION LAID ON THE TABLE.

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland: Commander, it seems to me this is a most important question. No one is charging the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief with extravagance. No one presumes for a moment that they have expended money that they ought not have expended, or contracted bills that were not proper and right, or that we should not meet those expenses in due time. It has been stated on this floor that if we increase the per capita tax it will tax certain Divisions or certain Camps out of the Order. We cannot afford to do that; and it occurs to me that there is something radically wrong in this organization when this state of facts presents itself, and with the view of having an investigation of the matter to its very core, and understanding what the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations will bring before this body, I move you, sir, that this whole question be deferred, or laid on the table, until after the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations have reported.

SURGEON-GENERAL MABBS: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It occurs to the Chair that the suggestion is a very good one because we may untangle the whole question by considering the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations first. Is it your motion, Col. Campbell, to lay on the table indefinitely?

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland: Yes, Commander, to lay on the table.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio: Commander, the motion to lay upon the table will carry with it all the motions, and lay them there until we take them up.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes, naturally; and it will give the other committee an opportunity to report first.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, will not we then have this discussion all over again?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations will help us out of the difficulty. Are you ready for the question? The question is.

to lay the whole matter on the table. As many as are in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried, and the matter is laid upon the table.

RECESS UNTIL NINE A. M., FRIDAY.

R. M. BUCKLEY, of Kentucky: Commander, I move the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion is carried. Before declaring recess I will say that the committee of the Indiana Division have indeed been fortunate in getting for us this beautiful hall in which to hold our sessions. The Governor of this great State has gone out of his way to assist them in many respects; and there will be, beginning at eight o'clock this evening, a reception here; and it is requested and hoped that every Son of a Veteran in this city will be upon this floor this evening. The Encampment now takes recess until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, September 10th, 1897.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I am.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

(Roll call No. 3).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER, OF THE G. A. R.,
INTRODUCED.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander and brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing to this Commandery-in-Chief, Hon. I. N. Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: General Walker, I do not need to say to you that you are welcome here, for the Commandery-in-Chief have anticipated my remarks. You are at liberty to occupy any part of the hall you desire, sir.

REAR ADMIRAL BROWN INTRODUCED.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander, Indiana at one time produced a Secretary of the Navy who, it is said, remarked, when he was first shown a war vessel in the Navy Yard, that "the blamed old thing is hollow." Indiana has produced another man who is well known all over the country, and who knew all the time that the blamed old thing was hollow. I have the pleasure of introducing Rear Admiral George Brown, of the United States Navy.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Admiral Brown, it gives this Encampment great pleasure to welcome within its walls one who has risen to the highest rank of the American Navy through meritorious conduct and actual service extending over a half century. We trust to be able to meet you at many more Encampments. (Applause).

I understand the Adjutant-General has some communications he desires to read at this time.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have received the following communications:

UNION STATION, ST. JOSEPH, MO., September 9, 1897.

General James L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

Lincoln Camp extends fraternal greeting to the Commandery.

FRED E. ERNST, Capt. Comdy.

DES MOINES, IOWA, September 9, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A., Indianapolis:

Convey to the brothers my kindest wishes and best regards.

GUY R. CARSON.

PATERSON, N. J., August 30, 1897.

Officers and Delegates of the Sixteenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

You are cordially invited to participate in the exercises attending the laying of the corner-stone of the new headquarters building of Hugh C. Irish Camp, No. 8, New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at 145 Broadway, this city, on Saturday afternoon, September 18th, 1897, at two o'clock. The exercises at the building will be preceded by a parade, which will assemble at the Camp room, No. 90 Washington Street, at one p. m., and move at half-past one o'clock p. m., sharp. Your acceptance of this invitation will be appreciated by the committee.

GEORGE W. POLLITT,
ABRAM M. DECKER,
WILLIAM G. DUNKERLEY,
ARTHUR I. VESCELIUS,
JOHN D. HOPPER.

ARTHUR I. VESCELIUS, Secretary,
89 Broadway, Paterson, N. J.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The communications read by the Adjutant-General will be spread upon the minutes. The first business in order this morning is the report of the committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. I understand that committee is ready to report, but if there is no objection we will first hear the report of the committee appointed at the Knoxville Encampment to consider the expediency of erecting peace monuments on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga. The committee was continued from the last Encampment. The report will probably not cause any discussion and can be disposed of shortly. Brother Campbell is chairman of the committee.

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland, chairman of the committee, submitted and read the following report:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 8, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

SIR:—The committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment, in the year 1895, to consider the expediency of erecting monuments on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga, and to consider the subject of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., uniting with the Sons of Confederate Veterans in erecting peace monuments upon said battlefields, composed of the following named brothers, viz.: Hon. Webster Davis, Mo.;

Colonels W. S. Oberdorf, N. Y.; Josiah Gross, La.; George F. Wolz, Neb., and myself as chairman, were, on the fourth of December of that year, organized, and Brother Oberdorf was appointed secretary and Brother Davis treasurer.

The members of the committee were invited to correspond with such persons and organizations as they deemed proper, with a view to obtaining information upon which recommendations could be based, of course without expense to the Order. Up to this time nothing of importance has been received by the chairman from any source whatsoever.

It may be proper to report that R. E. Lee Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Richmond, Va., with whom correspondence was had, questioned our sincerity and the authority of the committee, and requested a duly certified copy of the record showing the appointment of the same. They also informed me, through their secretary, that after the legality of our committee should be established they would consider the matter, but were in doubt as to the merit of the project, and other things.

A communication has been received from Headquarters Grand Camp, Confederate Veterans, written upon an official letter head, on which was displayed, in colors, the Virginia State flag, together with the rebel flag of 1861 to 1865—stars and bars. The envelope in which the same was transmitted was also ornamented with rebel emblems in colors.

Illness prevented me from attending the Encampment in 1896, and a note addressed to a brother of the Maryland Division, with the request that he offer my excuse, was turned over to a member of the committee, who submitted it as a partial report of the committee. (See proceedings 1896, page 123).

General Orders No. 2, Series 1897, gives information of the continuance of the committee.

This report is made with a view to definite action, or specific instructions by the Commandery-in-Chief, and is without expense to the Order, even to the amount of a postage stamp.

Possibly it may be well to suggest that this committee erect the desired monuments at their own expense, or that an association be formed which may be continued until the Order shall have reached a sufficient number of members to warrant the expense of doing the work favorable to the true principles underlying this organization, and teaching patriotism, of commemorating the honorable deeds of our fathers and of preserving the memory of the fallen heroes who died for our flag. Then we shall deserve the patronage of the Union soldier whose magnanimity accepted the enemies of our country as citizens and preserved that peace established through the sacrifices of our people, that brought and maintained happiness to an undivided nation and which emulates the example of Him who preached charity to the world and taught us that it was more blessed to give than to receive.

With a view to carrying this work to completion I have the honor to recommend that the following be adopted by this Encampment:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY: That we, whose names are hereunto signed, citizens of the United States, a part of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, are desirous of forming an organization under Section No. 345 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, as follows:

First. The name of this society shall be THE NATIONAL SONS OF VETERANS BATTLEFIELD PARK MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Second. This association to continue as an incorporate body for the period of twenty years.

Third. Its objects are: First, the erection on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga suitable monuments to the private soldiers who lost their lives thereon in defense of the Nation's honor during the War of Secession. Second, to erect peace monuments on said battlefield parks as fitting remembrances of a reunited country.

Fourth. The number of directors of this association shall consist of members selected from the incorporators or from members of the First Class.

Fifth. The membership of the association shall be of five classes, as follows, viz.:

Class 1. The members of the committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment and all Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Class 2. Past Division Commanders of the Order, who shall be eligible to office, and upon their being elected thereto shall become members of the First Class.

Class 3. Any son of a Union soldier.

Class 4. Any son of a Confederate soldier.

Class 5. Any person.

Fees and dues, By-Laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors. Fraternally,

E. R. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Battlefield Park Monument Committee.

VISIT FROM THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Before proceeding to action on the report just submitted, the Chair will inform the Encampment that the Inspector-General announces that a committee of the Ladies' Aid Society are without and desire to pay us a visit. What is the wish of the Encampment—that they be received at this time? If there is no objection the Chair will appoint a committee to receive them. Is there objection? The Chair hears none. The Inspector-General; Brother Borin, of Kansas; Brother Darling, of Massachusetts; Brother Patton, of Wisconsin; and Brother Dilley, of Iowa, will constitute such committee. The Commander-in-Chief is now ready to receive the ladies.

The representatives of the Ladies' Aid Society entered, escorted by the committee.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief and brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Mrs. Anna Simms, Mrs. R. M. Bolton, Mrs. Howey, Miss Buckley, and Mrs. Laura Martin, committee on greetings from the Ladies' Aid Society.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Ladies, sisters of our Auxiliary Association, you are always heartily welcome within our portals; especially so in Indianapolis, for, apart from any work that you do in assisting our Camps, you have graced the many occasions when we have been in review with your presence. We appreciate your services doubly, and I assure you you are welcome. (Applause).

MRS. SIMMS: Brother Commander and brothers of the Sons of Veterans:

To us has been accorded the pleasure of extending greetings from your sister organization to your grand and noble Order. We come bringing with us greetings from our sisters whose hearts and souls are with you in the grand work you are doing. We stand loyal, not only to the Sons of Veterans, but also to our parent organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps, and are glad and proud that we belong to the grandest family on earth, the G. A. R. family.

May you ever stand loyal to the principles of your Order, to the G. A. R. and to the glorious flag for which your fathers fought; and for which some of them gave their lives. We hope this Sixteenth Annual Encampment may be one of the most successful, harmonious and profitable ones you have ever held. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sisters, I know that General Abbott is particularly anxious to respond to your greeting, and I will call on him on behalf of our organization. (Applause).

GEORGE W. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander; ladies, of course our Commander-in-Chief is not an outright and pronounced enemy of mine, but he is aware of the fact that there are peculiar circumstances attending my appearance this morning, and that I am in no condition to star on this occasion; and I do not think he should have called on me. We have been wrestling with the photographer and trying to get a photograph of the Past Commanders-in-Chief and the man who will soon be a Past Commander-in-Chief, and he gave us a great deal of trouble. The old Past Commanders-

in-Chief of course were used to that sort of thing, but he has not been thoroughly broken into the harness, and of course, like the youngest member of a family, requires a great deal of attention and discipline. I was one of the brothers selected to get him properly in line, and the exertion has been such that I am not in any physical condition to reply this morning to the very pleasant greetings that have come to us from our sister organization. However, I have never neglected any duty in the Order, nor have I failed to respond to the commands of my superior officer at any time, so I will do the best I can to extend to you, sisters, the friendly greeting and fraternal love, and the deep consideration which I know bides in the heart of every brother and Son of a Veteran for our sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society. It is particularly pleasant for me to welcome you as I see, as a member of your committee, one of your earliest members, Sister Laura Martin. I had the pleasure and distinction of attending the First National Encampment of the Ladies' Aid Society. I remember it well. I was then new in the work as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans and we were both of us ambitious and full of hope for our separate organizations. We joined in the bonds of friendship and effort and worked for and with each other to help our organizations along. We worked hand in hand in those old days, in the early days of each Order, and I must say that we accomplished as much as could be expected, against what we had to contend with. The Orders at that time were a little different from what they are now. Everyone has heard of the great organization of the Sons of Veterans, and all of the Sons of Veterans have heard of the organization of the Ladies' Aid Society, and they are very anxious to hear more of it—on special and private occasions. I discovered last evening that the brothers are still continuing their friendship for that organization. Their feeling for it is very loyal and very strong. But we had things to contend with in those days that we do not have now. I am proud to know and feel that while we have had our troubles and vicissitudes in our Order, and that while some things have not gone as pleasantly and successfully as we could have wished for, I am proud to say that our sister society has never become disheartened or discouraged, but has kept along step by step with us in this great work of loyalty. It is a great, unselfish work, brothers and sisters, that we are doing, a grand and unselfish work; and the brother or sister who goes into either of these organizations and works for it with the expectation that it will personally benefit him does not deserve the honor or distinction of wearing the badge of either organization. (Applause).

I tell you, my brothers and sisters, I have been beyond the lines that limit the boundaries of the United States, and never till that moment did I appreciate the true feeling of what it was to be a citizen of this grand Republic (applause). And our sisters, who are to become the mothers, and who are to become the makers of our homes, are entitled to just as much honor in the American commonwealth as the man who goes out to serve his country, or follows the plough. I tell you that our work for loyalty is not for us, but it is for this grand old Republic of ours (applause); and we should go into it with the same unselfish devotion as our fathers went forward from 1861 to 1865, when it was attacked by those terrible foes, the most threatening that can attack a nation, disruption and civil war. I tell you, my brothers, that is our work. It is a work of loyalty. It is a work for the perpetuity of this country, for the perpetuity of our beloved old flag; and while we are in glorious times of peace and enjoying the fruits of prosperity—I do not mean that in a political sense—perhaps many of the boys do not remember the days of '61-'65. I do; and so long as I live I intend to do all I can to maintain this peace, to stand up for and protect the government; for I know the dire results that might follow, the disruption that might follow, if the American people should become unmindful of their homes. I have got to bring this thing to a close. We are too busy, we have got too much to do. I will come down and simply say to these, our sisters, we are glad to have you with us; we are glad not only because of the honor of your presence here as individuals, but we are glad to know that you are in this work. There is where we feel that you are welcome; there is where we feel that you will not only be serviceable to us in our work, but serviceable to the cause of loyalty to your country and to your flag, which of course implies loyalty to the old soldier. There is where you come in. There is

where we are glad to see you. I say God speed you in your work, and we will ever be ready to do what we can to assist you. We trust that we feel our responsibility for the rising generation in this great Republic, and we want you to feel your responsibility, and we want you to inculcate the lesson of loyalty and patriotism in order that there may be a sufficient number of patriotic Americans to hold level the mass of foreigners that are coming over to this country and make out of them peaceful and industrious citizens, who will contribute to its prosperity, as well as enjoy its many advantages. We thank you for your presence here to-day. (Applause).

MRS. HOWEY, of Illinois: Commander, we assure you that we appreciate General Abbott's remarks, and we also assure you that this committee is happy to have had the pleasure of visiting you, but before replying to General Abbott I wish to introduce to you our National President, one who led in the early days of the Order, Sister Laura M. Martin.

MRS. LAURA M. MARTIN: Commander, I must say a few words. The Sons of Veterans are a grand, a patriotic Order, and the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Aid Society must work together with strength more effective, with a fraternity broader, with charity purer and loyalty more devoted. May God bless and cherish all that come within your fraternal, charitable and patriotic influence. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Patton will take occasion to make a few remarks.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, among the earliest mottoes I remember in my early home was one, "What is home without a mother?" It made an impression on my young mind which has never been erased, and it seems to me that there is a motto that ought to be hung in every Camp of Sons of Veterans throughout the Union, and that is, "What is a Camp without a Ladies' Aid Society?" If we in our individual capacities, as members of the Camps, would look into this matter and see the advantages that would be derived there would be a decided advance all along the line in this most helpful organization.

It is with peculiar feelings I accept the invitation and rise to address the ladies and express to them the feelings of fraternity that exist in the hearts of the members of our Order. The speaker of the Ladies' Aid Society who preceded me referred to that tie which binds our two organizations together as one organization, the friendship we feel for each other, the fraternity which exists, and the charity which obliterates the lines of sectionalism and binds us together as one. Now, of course, I understand that it is natural that our Commander-in-Chief should call upon one who ratifies and finishes this tie which binds, namely, a preacher. Of course it is natural, I say, that our Commander-in-Chief should call upon the preacher who binds this tie, or ties this bind, whichever way you wish to put it, and especially when that brother happens to come from Milwaukee, the Mecca of marriageable couples. However, sisters, not wishing to take the time of the Commandery, appreciating heartily your expressions of friendship and charity, and knowing that it grows deeper than words can express, I wish to add to the eloquent words of Past Commander Abbott and say that we welcome you heartily and cordially. We are with you most sincerely in your work. We recognize in you a mighty help and aid to us in our efforts, in the community and in the local Camps, and we want to say to you not only Godspeed, but, brothers, shall we not go forth from this Encampment resolved that not only shall we say sweet words to the ladies here when they bring us their fraternal greetings, not only will we give them our hands, and, of course, more, if they ask it—our hearts also—but we will go to our several Camps resolved to push this matter, practically, of building up the Ladies' Aid Society throughout the United States. (Applause). We recognize the fact that this Auxiliary organization is necessary. It is a necessity. If it is not, then we can dispense with it, but we believe that is the fact. I believe there is a place for this organization. Now, brothers, let not our efforts end with this reception and these fraternal greetings and responses, but let us go away resolved that we will go to our several homes and say what we will do in the coming year; resolved, if there is not one, that a Ladies' Auxiliary shall be added to our Camp. We greet and welcome you, ladies, with all the feelings of fraternal love. (Applause).

MRS. ANNA SIMS: Commander and brothers, we thank you very much for your kind words, but will take up no more of your time. Thanking you again for your hearty welcome, we will retire.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: We thank you heartily for your call, and on behalf of the Commandery we assure you that we appreciate your visit.

The ladies retired escorted by the committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you had just heard the report of the special committee on peace monuments, to be erected on the battlefield parks, at the time the presence of the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society was announced. What is the desire of the Encampment in reference to the same? What shall be done with the report just read?

EDWARD K. DEPUY, of Washington, D. C.: Commander, I move you, sir, that the report of the committee be adopted.

A. L. SORTER, of Iowa: Commander, I wish to say on behalf of delegates in the rear of the room that much of the important matter read in that report was lost to us on account of the confusion and conversation that was going on around us. We do not wish to delay the proceedings of the Encampment, at the same time it would be a great favor to us to have the essential section of that report re-read to the convention.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will re-read the latter portion of the report.

The Adjutant-General read the latter portion of the report as follows:

"With a view to carrying this work to completion, we have the honor to recommend the following to be adopted by this Encampment:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY: That we, whose names are hereunto signed, citizens of the United States, a part of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, are desirous of forming an organization under Section No. 345 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, as follows:

First. The name of this society shall be THE NATIONAL SONS OF VETERANS BATTLEFIELD PARK MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Second. This association to continue as an incorporate body for the period of twenty years.

Third. Its objects are: First, the erection on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamanga, suitable monuments to the private soldiers who lost their lives thereon in defense of the Nation's honor during the War of Secession. Second, to erect peace monuments on said battlefield parks as fitting remembrances of a reunited country.

Fourth. The number of directors of this association shall consist of members selected from the incorporators or from members of the First Class.

Fifth. The membership of this association shall be of five classes, as follows, viz.:

Class 1. The members of the committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment and all Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Class 2. Past Division Commanders of the Order, who shall be eligible to office, and upon their being elected thereto shall become members of the First Class.

Class 3. Any son of a Union soldier.

Class 4. Any son of a Confederate soldier.

Class 5. Any person.

Fees and dues, By-Laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors. Fraternaly,

E. R. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Battlefield Park Monument Committee.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, if I understand the reading of the report, the committee recommends that an incorporation be formed, the members of which shall be composed of different classes, five in all, the first class will consist of the committee having this matter in charge and the Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Order, and the other classes follow. Just as to how that is arranged I do not understand, but this association is to be incorporated and its object is to be the erection of these peace monuments on the battlefields of the late war. It seems to me that it incurs no liability, as I understand it, upon this Order. It is to be a separate corporation. The recommendation, so far as we are concerned, is simply to give it our countenance, that is all; then of course the matter must be taken up by those persons who are to be incorporated and a charter obtained from some state, under the authority of some state. Am I right?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand Past Commander-in-Chief Russell has stated the essential features of this organization. I understand from the report of the committee that the object of this incorporation is merely to secure the endorsement of this Encampment, to enable this incorporation to obtain popular subscriptions, and with that end in view the various classes are designated; the management of the incorporation, of course, rests with the First Class.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you that the incoming administration be instructed to print this report and distribute it to the various Divisions for action that they may instruct their delegates and representatives to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief in reference thereto.

LOUIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded—the former motion was not seconded—that the incoming administration refer this question to the Divisions, they in turn to the Camps, for instructions to the delegates to the next annual Encampment, there to be acted upon. If the motion prevails it will practically place the question back with the Divisions for action at our next meeting. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. We will now hear from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, if they are ready to report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read the first section of the report of the committee as follows:

"To the Officers and Brothers of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

"Believing the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations impracticable to the present requirements of our Order, containing as it does much obsolete matter and much that is inadequate to its successful government, your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to report the following recommendations:

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty-five (25) members, of which the Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is it the pleasure of the Encampment to act upon the report section by section?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the report be taken up *seriatim*, and where no objection is raised the Commander-in-Chief declare the recommendation of the committee adopted.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It appears to the Chair that from the reading of the report as far as it has gone it relates to a very important subject, and it would be fairer to the committee to hear the whole report first rather than adopt a section and then probably have to turn back and reconsider it. The Chair would suggest, if there is no objection, that the committee be permitted to read its entire report before action is taken adopting any part of the same.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, in view of the suggestion of the Chair, I withdraw my motion.

Brother Gardner continued and concluded the reading of the report as follows:

"Recommendation No. 2. The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves.

"Recommendation No. 3. That all recommendations and petitions to the present committee be referred to the above named committee for action.

"Recommendation No. 4. Inasmuch as there are no commissions issued, nor rank conferred upon the members of the Camp, Division and Council-in-Chief, we hereby recommend that a commission be issued to the members of said Council that they may bear rank as follows: That the members of the Camp Council shall rank as First Lieutenants, that the members of Division Council shall rank as Majors, and the members of the Council-in-Chief as Brigadier Generals."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? How shall the report be considered?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I now renew my motion, that the report be read by sections and where there is no objection the Commander-in-Chief declare that section of the report of the committee adopted.

JAMES H. TAWNEY, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the report now be read by sections and where there is no objection urged the Commander-in-Chief declare the section adopted. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion prevails and the chairman of the committee will kindly read the first recommendation.

Brother Gardner read the first section of the report of the committee, as follows:

"Believing the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations impracticable to the present requirements of our Order, containing as it does much obsolete matter and much that is inadequate to its successful government, your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to report the following recommendations."

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER: Commander, I move this section of the report of the committee be adopted as read.

JAMES H. TAWNEY, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the motion. The question is on the adoption of this section of the report of the committee. We are ready for discussion. I trust you will be expeditious and orderly that we may have the benefit of the discussion.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I want to ask the chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations to explain, so far as he can, just precisely what this legislation means. He will not accuse me of flattering him when I say that he has an excellent voice, a

very penetrating voice, which will reach all parts of this hall, and if he will explain just exactly the meaning of this suggestion I think he will confer a favor on all of us. At the first glance, I confess, it looks to me as though it might mean the total abolition of everything, uniform, uniformity of uniform and everything else. If that is so I think we had better hesitate, and more especially because we have just ratified a certain recommendation to appoint a committee of twenty-five to revise the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. In view of that fact it seems doubtful to me whether it would be advisable to refer this matter to a committee of twenty-five.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe that the committee of twenty-five is a further suggestion of this same report, that it is contingent upon the acceptance of the first suggestion, the suggestion now under consideration. If it is accepted I believe it is the intention of this committee that the appointment of the committee of twenty-five shall follow. I would ask the chairman of the committee if I state the matter correctly?

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I so understand it.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I understood that there was a motion passed here providing for a committee of twenty-five.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: No, that was the first reading of that section of the report of the committee. The Chair suggested that there be no action by the Commandery on the report of the committee until the whole report was heard and there was no legislation whatever on the subject. We are now considering the first section of the report of the committee, and if this recommendation pass, the recommendation for the appointment of the committee of twenty-five will naturally follow and be before you.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Thank you, Commander, you have cleared the atmosphere considerably; but I do want to ask again that committee explain, as clearly as you have, precisely what this section means, or what this recommendation means. I think that it should be explained, and I certainly hope an explanation will be forthcoming as to what this section of the report of the Committee on C, R. and R. means.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, on behalf of the committee I desire to say in explanation of this recommendation in the form in which it is presented here, that the committee has received a voluminous amount of material looking to changes of all kinds and descriptions in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations as they now exist. Upon conversation with many members of the Commandery here present it seemed to the committee that there was a majority, if not a very large majority of this Commandery, of the opinion that our organization has reached a period requiring radical changes. The committee was of the opinion and is of the opinion that it would be far from practicable to have this Commandery undertake the changes that might be required within the period of twenty-four or forty-eight hours, all the time that could possibly be allotted to it during the session of this Commandery. The committee had in mind that upon the adoption of this recommendation, the committee of twenty-five gentlemen appointed by the Commander-in-Chief would be, and doubtless will be, if this motion prevails, composed of men who have devoted the greater part of the best ten or fifteen years of their lives to studying the needs and requirements of this organization. The Committee on Constitution had in mind in placing upon this proposed committee the Past Commanders-in-Chief, that that committee would have the benefit of the year or two of service that they devoted to its affairs as the head of the organization. This committee had not in mind any specific labors for that committee. It had in mind simply, as I have said, that it is apparent to many of us—and I speak for those in Ohio now—that our organization needs changes. Those changes, I am of the opinion, are embodied to some degree in the report of the Commander-in-Chief. I understand that that committee would be empowered to take up and pass upon any other recommendation, or enact any other legislation that in their wisdom was thought to be for the best interest of the organization. However, the committee was also of the opinion that it had not any other material that was

in concise and readable form, containing a reasonable number of facts for their guidance, as did the report of the Commander-in-Chief. Therefore, this first recommendation was upon the adoption of the report of the Commander-in-Chief, as found on page seven. Now the committee are perfectly willing to answer any questions that brothers may see fit to ask, that it is able to answer.

R. S. THOMPSON, of Michigan: Commander, if we adopt the recommendation of the committee do we not practically abolish everything?

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, the committee does not so understand it. The committee does not understand that it is calling upon the Encampment to abolish everything. It does, however, understand that this proposed committee will be in a position, will have such authority that it can, if it considers it necessary, wipe out the present existing Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, does not the recommendation contemplate the very thing suggested by the brother from Michigan? It would contemplate the abolition of the military uniform, and all the features of the Order as we have them to-day.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say in reply to the remark of Brother Patton that if you will read farther along in Commander-in-Chief's report, the Commander-in-Chief does not attempt to say that his recommendation is a cure for the evil that exists. It is simply a suggestion that has come to him, nothing more nor less than the consensus of opinion obtained by him from numerous conversations had during the year with different members of the Order. It is not the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to suggest to this Encampment that any radical legislation should be adopted. All that that part of his report says is that it should be considered. I have understood from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations that if the recommendation carried and the committee in question is appointed it will be their duty to see whether this suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief has merit or not. There is unquestionably a demand for some sort of change in our organization, when during the last six years we have had upon our rolls one hundred and twenty-five thousand members; when in the entire sixteen years we have been in existence we have mustered in between two hundred thousand and three hundred thousand Sons of Veterans, and can show to-day only about thirty-two thousand. It certainly tells us there is something wrong. I do not pretend to say that I have discovered what the trouble is, but I do believe that such a committee as is contemplated by this recommendation in this report would be able to solve the difficulty for us.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, is not the suggestion in your report, in the main, practically a suggestion of the revival of the military feature which was abolished only a few years ago?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I do not so understand it.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, your report says, "For that minority who are eligible to membership in our organization, who take deep interest in military matters, provision could be made empowering the Division Commander to issue a dispensation permitting a Camp to establish an armed and equipped body," etc.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I would say to Brother Patton that that is merely in answer to one of the points that was raised against the military feature. The provision in the Constitution for the military rank placed them under separate commands, but still they retained their membership in the Camps, and it caused a conflict of authority. My suggestion needs not necessarily be accepted by the Division. It does not follow that it will be the recommendation of this committee. But if it were, in the judgment of that committee, to be adopted, it follows very clearly here that their allegiance would be with the Camp and not with the separate organization as it existed before.

W. D. SPEAR, of New York: Commander, if I correctly understand the matter, notwithstanding what the Commander has just told us, the Committee on C., R. and R. recommend the adoption by this Encampment of the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The committee recommend the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief that the matter be further investigated.

R. S. THOMPSON, of Michigan: I submit, Commander, the committee does not make any such report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is what the chairman of the committee has informed the Encampment.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, it is in order that the recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief may be better considered that the committee recommend, etc.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I heretofore have had an idea that I understood matters as well as the average man, but I do not understand this. As I understand it, the committee make a recommendation here; they make a suggestion in regard to adopting a suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief. Now, if I know anything about parliamentary law, when this body votes to adopt that committee's report it adopts that recommendation and it becomes the law of our Order. I would like to have that portion of the report read again so that we may clearly understand it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The chairman of the committee will read that portion of the report.

Brother Gardner read the first recommendation of the report as follows:

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty-five members, of which the Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief."

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: "The same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief." Commander, that is the point exactly.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I do not know as I understand this matter, but as I understand it is this way: The Commander-in-Chief makes a recommendation. He does not make it definitely, under the head of a recommendation, as I understand this; but his suggestions cover two pages of his report, and his conclusion is that a revision of the general law of the organization is necessary. He takes that matter up and argues it. He makes the suggestion, which, if the report of this committee is adopted, becomes only a suggestion to that committee. The general recommendation contained in this section of the Commander-in-Chief's report is a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Order; in other words, a revision of the plan of organization, and then he gives his reasons which lead him to make this recommendation; and by the adoption of the recommendation as the committee reports it, it follows from the next section, and the committee so understand it, that a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations will follow. Then these suggestions that the Commander-in-Chief makes are simply for the use of that committee. They are really, the way his report reads, simply his reasons for making this recommendation. By the adoption of the first section of this report, in other words, the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, we do not change the fundamental laws of this organization in any respect. We simply provide for a committee to consider the advisability of changing it, and if that committee decides so to do, after due consideration of the needs of the Order at this time, the changes will then be made.

REPORT RE-COMMITTED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I understand very clearly what Past Commander-in-Chief Russell puts forth to this Encamp-

ment. I think it would have been just as easy for the committee to have so expressed the resolution, so that there would be no possible doubt about its meaning. It stands independently now. What follows cannot necessarily be connected with it. And it means just what it says, that the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief shall be adopted. If there is anything more that can be done to make that the law of the Order I would like to know what it is; because it comes in the form of a positive resolution; it has a solid basis upon which it is built, and if this vote is taken and carried the committee that would take up this work would have no right to reconsider that vote. It would simply have to frame articles of the Constitution and articles of the By-Laws along that line. It could not consider the matter in any other way. I, therefore, move that this portion of the committee's report be referred back to the committee for revision in order that it may express what the committee has explained it desires to express.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that this portion of the report be referred back to the committee for revision. Are you ready for the question? All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and this section is re-committed to the committee. The Chair will request the committee to report as expeditiously as possible; in the meanwhile I will ask if the Committee on Resolutions is ready to report?

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have here a telegram from Fred C. Stillson, Battle Creek, Michigan.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the telegram.

The Adjutant-General read the telegram, as follows:

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., September 10th, 1897.

R. Loebenstein, Quartermaster-General S. V., Indianapolis, Ind.:

Please convey to Encampment assembled a continuance of my distinguished consideration and regrets that illness prevents my attendance.

FRED C. STILLSON.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report?

LOUIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, did we not decide to lay on the table the consideration of the per capita tax until after the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations has not reported yet, their report being re-committed. So that that matter is not in order at this time.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, there is the committee appointed to attend the G. A. R. Encampment and the committee appointed to look after legislation making the Sons of Veterans a military reserve of the United States Army which are yet to report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: The Committee on Resolutions are prepared to make a partial report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: We will hear it. What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to acting upon the report of the Committee on Resolutions? Is it the desire of the Encampment to act upon each resolution as read? They are all complete in themselves and it might be that that course would expedite matters.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that we consider each resolution as reported by the committee separately, and that after the reading of each resolution, if there be no objection, it stand as adopted by this Encampment.

G. J. BOSWORTH, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Encampment act upon each resolution as read, and that each resolution, as read, be considered adopted unless objection is offered. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is adopted and the report will be considered in that way. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

R. M. J. Reed, chairman of the committee, proceeded to read the report as follows:

"INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, S. V., U. S. A.:

BRETHREN:—Your Committee on Resolutions, after careful consideration of the subjects embraced in the several papers submitted to us, respectfully submit the following:

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE DIVISION OF IOWA.

The first is requesting the reinstatement to the rank of Past Captain of a number of brothers who had been reinstated in membership, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the following named brothers, who are now in good standing of their respective Camps, and who have lost the honors of Past Captain, be recommended to the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans as deserving of the reinstatement of said past honors and respectfully request their reinstatement, viz.:

Marshall Anderson, Camp No. 80, Perry, Ia.

John S. Ely, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

James H. York, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

W. R. Wickham, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

A. L. Schneider, Denison Camp, No. 106, Center Point, Ia.

I. W. Kerl, W. W. Allen Camp, No. 114, Mason City, Ia.

I. W. Smith, W. W. Allen Camp, No. 114, Mason City, Ia.

H. H. Canfield, Camp No. 236, Boone, Ia.

C. T. Babitt, Geo. B. McLellan Camp No. 46, Webster City.

W. R. Innman, Geo. B. McLellan Camp No. 46, Webster City.

No reasons for such action having been furnished your committee we report negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There does not appear to be any objection. The resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Second, a resolution favoring the establishment of a military college by the Commandery-in-Chief as a memorial to the volunteers of the late Civil War, which reads as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the Iowa Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., favor the establishment of a military college by the National organization as a memorial to the volunteers of the late Civil War."

Your committee would most heartily approve, but we are unable to understand how such a desirable object is possible at this time, and are reluctantly compelled to negative the resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to that resolution? There does not seem to be any and the resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Third, requesting the recognition of "The Saber" as the official organ of the Order.

The resolution is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That The Saber be recognized and endorsed as the official organ of the Division, and that the delegates and representatives of the Division be instructed to use all honorable means to secure the endorsement of the National Encampment at Indianapolis for The Saber."

Your committee are reminded that there are other equally deserving journals published in the interest of the Order, and that this recognition of "The Saber" would work injury to them; we can only recommend each of them as deserving the support of the membership, and for reasons stated report the resolution negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none. The resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION.

First, requesting restoration of rank of Past Division Commander upon E. C. White, of that Division, which is as follows:

WHEREAS, Past Commander E. C. White, of the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., was dropped from Camp No. 5, of said Division, for non-payment of dues; and

WHEREAS, By reason of misfortune in business said E. C. White became unable to pay his dues in Camp No. 5, of said New Jersey Division, of which he was a member; therefore be it

Resolved, By this Encampment that upon his reinstatement by said Camp No. 5 that all past rank be restored to him.

"Your committee knowing the circumstances under which E. C. White lost his membership and rank, misfortune beyond his control, report affirmatively."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection to this resolution?

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, I might just say for the information of the brothers that Brother White did meet with serious misfortunes and lost his membership by absence in Florida, and his Camp is willing to reinstate him and give him back his past rank as Division Commander. He was one of the first and one of the most earnest workers that the Division of New Jersey, or any other Division, ever had.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I perfectly agree with what Major Reed has said. Those of us who were early in the ranks remember with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure the work of Brother White, but the question involved in this matter is one that seriously affects myself. As a matter of principle I am opposed to it. As a matter concerning this individual brother I shall vote for it. At the Cincinnati Encampment I plead with this body to make a provision in the Constitution that would cover just such cases. It so happened I was personally interested in it. The very thing that happened to Brother White would have happened to me had it not been for the careful guardianship of another brother of my Division. If it had not been for him I would have been in the same position that Brother White is, and my case was very much more beyond my control than his. I simply reserve the right as a matter of principle to vote against this thing, but as an individual matter I approve of it in this particular case.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The report of the committee in this particular is approved and the chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Second, asking that the rank held by those who had been members of the Post System, but are now members of our Order, be given them in the Camps of which they are now members. The resolution is as follows:

"WHEREAS, During the official year now terminating, Custer Post, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, Post System, of Bayonne, N. J., was mustered into the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., as Custer Camp, No. 6; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Sixteenth Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., does hereby grant all past honors to such former officers of the Post System, Sons of Veterans, and all past officers of former Custer Post as are now members in good standing of Custer Camp, No. 6."

"We report with favorable recommendation."

Commander, this is in reference to the Post System in New Jersey. They are now being brought into the Order through the Division of New Jersey; it has always been done, I believe. The movement was inaugurated under Commander-in-Chief Abbott.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I want to know what that means? Are we to have another batch of Past Colonels coming in

here? I want to know if this thing is going to occur in other Divisions, that a few gentlemen who cannot be elected Colonels in a Division go off and organize a Post and elect themselves Colonels, and then come into the Sons of Veterans as a part of the Post System, retaining their past rank. Illinois wants to know if we can do that? We are just as anxious for a large representation on this floor as any other Division.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the report embraces no Division Commanders, only Captains.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I would like to have that specified.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will the chairman of the committee read the resolution once more?

CHAIRMAN REED: We might correct the phraseology by mentioning the rank of Captain. The section reads as follows with that amendment:

WHEREAS, During the official year now terminating, Custer Post, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, Post System, of Bayonne, N. J., was mustered into the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., as Custer Camp, No. 6; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Sixteenth Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., does hereby grant the rank of Past Captain to Past Captains of the Post System, Sons of Veterans, and past honorees under the rank of Captain to all officers of former Custer Post who are now members in good standing of Custer Camp, No. 6."

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, I would like to ask the chairman of the committee if this will affect men who have acquired a rank in a Post—and there are Posts of Sons of Veterans in New Jersey—I would like to ask him if this resolution will affect those who have acquired the rank of Commander in the various Posts in New Jersey, who, having acquired that rank, leave their Posts and join a Camp and want to retain their title and past rank. Is that the intent of the resolution?

JAMES B. ADAMS, of New Jersey: Commander, during my term of office as Commander of the Division of New Jersey I received a communication from Custer Post, No. 6, of New Jersey, asking if they could become a Camp and on what conditions. I corresponded with them and at last succeeded in turning over the whole of Custer Post as Custer Camp, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. They are in the Order now. There was one Past Department Commander in the Post System in that Camp, and if the members of this Encampment object to giving that man his past rank we will waive that, if you will grant to the Past Commanders of the Post System the rank of Past Captains in the Sons of Veterans. We want that for this one Camp that came over. They were a Post and they came over entirely as a Camp. It is not for any individual member, but the whole organization.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, some years ago we were engaged in bringing into this Order what was commonly called the Post System. That Post System existed at that time in New Jersey, in New York and in Pennsylvania. All the Posts in Pennsylvania became Camps and all past officers received their past rank. In New York all of the Posts came in with the exception of one, and all the past officers received their past rank. In New Jersey we did not have the same success. At that time there were four or five Posts, flourishing organizations, which for various reasons, principally political, on the part of the leaders, declined to come in. They have increased in numbers slightly. I believe, from the representations made to me by the representatives of the New Jersey Division, that the time is now ripe for those Posts to come in, and when they come in there will then be throughout these United States but one Order of the Sons of Veterans. I heartily agree with the recommendation of the committee and hope that the resolution will pass and those men will receive their past rank. They have done good work, perhaps in a different organization, but still with the same motive. I believe the history of this organization has been a history of consolidations, and I hope it will continue until it brings all the young men, sons of Union soldiers, into one grand organi-

zation through these United States. I believe in standing by New Jersey at the present time and helping her make New Jersey a solid Division. (Applause and cries of "agreed," "agreed.")

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander—(Cries of "question," "question.")

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is the apparent intention of the organization that the resolution shall pass. Have you anything to say, General Abbott?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise for information. I want to ask first if this will bring in all the Posts in the Post System in New Jersey? Will they come?

JAMES B. ADAMS, of New Jersey: Commander, I will say that we have not positive assurance from all the Posts in New Jersey that they will come in. They are yet so strong there that they hold a Division Encampment in the northern part of the State; and I venture the assertion they are just as strong as the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in that State. They hold an encampment in the northern part of the State and have not given any positive assurance that they will come in, but I think this is the way to get them.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I want to ask Brother Clarkson if at the Encampment at Paterson we did not make a combination with the Post System, and give past rank to all officers including Commanders-in-Chief, and if on two subsequent occasions, or at least one other, we did not have to do it again and give past rank to two other Commanders-in-Chief and I cannot say how many Division Colonels. There is a little nest that just keeps hatching out Commanders-in-Chief and Colonels. They know we are anxious to get them in and they hatch them out and graduate them into our organization. We encourage them to stand out against us by letting them in on these terms. They are lost to the Grand Army of the Republic. The Grand Army of the Republic would never give them any recognition. We are strong now and they have nothing, and we encourage them to hold out by making these concessions. They know that for each year they hold on they can hatch out another Colonel and another Commander-in-Chief, and it encourages these little fellows to keep that thing up forever and eternally.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that this resolution affects Camp officers alone and does not affect Past Division Commanders, or Past Commanders-in-Chief.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, if the committee will make their resolution so state, I am not opposed to it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand the chairman of the committee has so modified the resolution.

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, it is not the intention to give the past rank to any Past Commander of the Post System. Our idea is to give the past rank to Past Captains. If this Commandery-in-Chief will grant us the right to offer this inducement to the Posts in the New Jersey Division to-day, we can in the next year get in many Camps that are to-day working under the Post System, and we can get them as Sons of Veterans, if we are permitted to offer this inducement. The Past Commander-in-Chief made one assertion, that these men could not become Division Commanders and Commanders-in-Chief in the Order. I say that there are men to-day in the Post System in New Jersey just as capable of being Commanders-in-Chief as any men in this Order.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee has altered the phraseology of the resolution, so that it embraces only Past Captains.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Then is there any objection to the resolution? There seems to be none, and the resolution is adopted. The chairman will proceed with the report of the committee.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND DIVISION.

First, requesting the restoration of the old ritual, or a modification of the present one. The resolution is as follows :

"WHEREAS, The present three-degree ritual of the Sons of Veterans has not proven satisfactory, through lack of proper facilities ; and

"WHEREAS, The present ritual is not as satisfactory as the one it superseded and does not, in the opinion of the Maryland Division, present a proper muster ceremony ; therefore be it

"Resolved, That this Division's representatives be instructed to use their influence to have the ritual abolished and the former one substituted, with such other improvements as the Commandery-in-Chief see fit."

We report affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to this section of the report?

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I rise for information. I want the Committee on Resolutions to explain that farther. Perhaps I do not understand it, and if I do not I wish to be corrected. If it means a return to the old ritual and the abolition of the present three-degree ritual, that is one thing. If the committee recommend an optional clause, that might be popular and help the Order materially, and I rather think it would be better than to go back to the old ritual. If you will strike out certain words and insert certain words, and then let it be optional with all the Camps in the United States to use the ritual or not, it strikes me you will then be taking a long step forward. (Applause). I submit here and now, inasmuch as we are face to face with this issue, that if the committee will agree to retire and report in favor of an optional use of the ritual, then we will have taken a long step towards establishing this organization and putting it where it belongs. (Applause).

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I rise to a point of order. I think that matter is in the hands of the Ritual Committee at the present time and they have a report to make on that subject.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I was about to suggest that the resolution itself should have gone to the Ritual Committee.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee was aware of that. We only reported it in accordance with the expression of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would suggest that the resolution as reported by the Committee on Resolution be referred to the Ritual Committee. (Cries of "consent," "consent. "). If there is no objection it will be so ordered. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Second, favoring the appeal to the G. A. R. to admit Sons of Veterans into their meetings. The resolutions are as follows :

"We, the Committee on Resolutions, respectfully report that

"WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of Mansfield Camp, No. 2, of this Division, it was

"Resolved, That Mansfield Camp endorse the action of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, in their endorsement of the resolution providing for the admittance of Sons of Veterans into their meetings during the transaction of active business, initiation, etc., to be referred to the National Encampment, G. A. R., to be held at Buffalo, N. Y.; therefore be it

"Resolved, That this Encampment instruct its representative and representative-at-large to the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., to use all honorable means to secure the favorable approval of the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans to the above resolution of Mansfield Camp ; and be it further

"Resolved, That the representative and representative-at-large use their best endeavors to secure favorable action of the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., to a resolution to secure the endorsement by the National Encampment, G. A. R., to the resolution adopted by the Department of Maryland, G. A. R., admitting Sons of Veterans to their meetings." (Cries of "no," "no," "no.")

The committee think that the time for such request has not yet arrived and report negatively. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There seems to be a great deal of opposition to the resolution, but none to the report of the committee. The chairman will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Third, asking the repeal of Section 4, Article IV, Chapter 5 of the C., R. and R.

Your committee, knowing that this matter is being considered by another committee, report it back without action.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY WISCONSIN DIVISION.

Asking that the present three-degree ritual be retained, which is as follows:

"Be it resolved that it is the sense of the Wisconsin Division that we retain the present three-degree ritual with errata to conform to latest U. S. military tactics. This resolution to be presented to Commandery-in-Chief."

"The committee already having reported affirmatively a resolution from the Division of Maryland asking for a return to the old ritual now enthusiastically negative the resolution from Wisconsin."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection it will be treated the same as the previous resolution and referred to the Committee on Ritual.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION OF NEBRASKA.

Praying for the appointment of a committee by the Commander-in-Chief to report a plan of insurance. The resolution is as follows:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief to report a plan of insurance."

Your committee are unanimously and unqualifiedly of the opinion that this is a patriotic and not an endowment organization; we, therefore, report negatively. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment seems to have decided that. Proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE CONNECTICUT DIVISION.

A resolution relative to changes in the Ritual, requiring the printing of the degrees in separate books. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the long and short forms of the present "three-degree ritual" be printed in separate books, and that all minute details relating to the Sergeant of Guard's position be printed in full as in the old ritual.

This matter having been covered by the resolution from the Division of Maryland, and will no doubt be considered by the Ritual Committee, your committee report negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the Committee on Ritual if there is no objection. Proceed.

Chairman Reed continued reading the report as follows:

SCHOOL HISTORIES OF THE WAR.

"Resolutions recognizing the necessity for reform of a radical nature in the matter of history taught in our public schools, to the end that the true story of the suppression of an ungodly rebellion be taught the children of the whole country, and one endorsing the action of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. in this matter, and pledging our earnest support and providing for the appointment of a committee of five by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the G. A. R."

These are the resolutions handed in by members representing the Grand Army of the Republic, who are also members of this Encampment, from Indiana. They desire their consideration at this time, as they must leave the hall shortly. For that reason they are taken out of their order in the report of the committee. The resolutions as handed in are as follows :

"*Resolved*, That this Encampment fully recognizes the necessity of a reform in the matter of the histories now in use in the public schools of our country, to the end that they may furnish a more correct and patriotic account of that important period covering the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, and we fully endorse the action of the last National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, in this matter and pledge them our earnest co-operation ; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, and to report their action at the next Commandery-in-Chief."

The Committee on Resolutions realize that this is a question of most vital importance to the future of our American Republic and warmly recommend its adoption and enthusiastically report it affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN CHIEF: Comrade Judge Marsh is present and would like to say a few words to the Encampment on this subject. What is the pleasure of the Encampment? (Cries of "hear him," "hear him.")

Brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing Judge Marsh.

REMARKS OF JUDGE MARSH.

JUDGE MARSH: Commander and gentlemen, I have served during the past year as chairman of a committee of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on School Histories. I need not present any argument to you gentlemen as to the importance of making, in our public schools, patriotic citizens of the Republic; but I may possibly present a fact to you that may have escaped your observation, as it had escaped ours previous to our investigation of this subject; that is, that as the school histories now in common use in the schools all over the country stand to-day, there is no history within my knowledge, or within the range of the investigation of the committee, that presents the subject of the War for the Preservation of the Union, as a war between a government and those in revolt against its authority, but on the contrary, every history in ordinary use in the public schools of the land report and deal with the war period as a contest simply between two sections of our country, as an athletic contest, if you please, to determine the question whether the north or the south was the biggest or which had the best men. So the National Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic have taken this view of the question, that no history is fit to be taught in the public schools of this peerless Republic that does not recognize the fact that the War for the Preservation of the Union was a war between the Government of the United States upon the one hand and the states in revolt upon the other. (Applause). We have discovered further that within the last twelve months there has been published by an eminent educator of the State of Virginia, a school history which bears upon its title page the announcement by its author that this history is published in order that it may be acceptable to the south, and fit to be taught in its schools. I want to say to you gentlemen, sons of the men who kept this flag in the sky, that it is written in that history that the Emancipation Proclamation was the consummation of the greatest crime and the greatest piece of robbery ever practiced by a conquering people against the conquered; that this history speaks of Sherman's march to the sea in the same way, and says of the men who sing "Marching through Georgia" that they forget that this march was characterized by outrages upon defenseless women and children and old men, and was a blot upon the American name and a blot upon the civilization of the nineteenth century.

I say this is the kind of history issued within the last twelve months to go into the hands of children of this Republic, of those who are to become its defenders and the custodians of its honor and integrity. But I find another thing. Not alone may it be said of the histories in general use in

the public schools in the land that they do not make any distinction, that they do not distinguish, that they do not make it plain and clear to the youth of the land that this was a war for the preservation of the Government, but they have so framed their histories as to make them acceptable to the people who were in favor of the destruction of the government, believing that it will be looked over and passed over by those who fought for its preservation.

One item or two and I have done. The history in use to-day in the State of Indiana, required to be used by law, the history in most common use in the entire United States, when first examined by this committee contained this initial statement, "The State of South Carolina seceded from the Union." This as a statement of fact! The Union was now broken up! The State of South Carolina had become a free and independent nation! In the next chapter followed an account of the withdrawal of seven states from the nation. Thus, as was said by one seceding senator, "They had left the National Government a corpse lying in state at Washington." The author of this book, the advocates of this book, say that it is of necessity brief. The name of Hancock, of Reynolds, of Sedgwick, of McPherson, of Howard, do not appear in this history at all. The children read it in vain to find anything of these magnificent characters. Grant is mentioned in the account of the Vicksburg campaign three times—barely mentioned. The war eagle of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment is given more space in this book, which the author says must of necessity be brief—he gives that as an excuse for these omissions—the war eagle of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment is given more space in that book than is given to the description of the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge altogether. As we found it in the first place there was more space given to an account of a good old New England mother accompanying her son to a railroad station and starting him off to the war—an account given for the purpose of ridiculing this good old mother—than was given to all these battles that I have named combined. This mother, it says, thrust into the hands of her boy the well worn family umbrella. She did not understand the art of war as well, perhaps, as General Scott, but she was determined that if her son had to go to battle, he should have shelter in wet weather if he had to fight in that kind. An insult to every mother who sent her boy to the front with tears and prayers; an insult to every son of a good mother who went out and marched to death on the red field of war under that flag. Space is given to that, while to Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain, those heights on which men climbed to glory, two lines and a half! Eleven lines given to this ridicule; two lines and a half to Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

I speak of this merely to show the necessity for the action of this committee. The Grand Army of the Republic, in session at Buffalo, adopted the report made by the committee, of which I had the honor to be chairman, a few days ago, in which they requested your organization, the Women's Relief Corps and every kindred organization to stand up beside us, to join hands with us, to stand shoulder to shoulder with us, until in every school in the land there shall be a decent patriotic history in the hands of your children and our children, to teach them the truth in regard to the great events of that time (applause); this is the reason this resolution is before you. I hope this magnificent body of men will appoint a committee that will do most of the work on this patriotic subject in the future.

I thank you, Commander-in-Chief, and you, gentlemen, for the courtesy extended to me.

IRA W. CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I would like to add a few words to what Judge Marsh has said on this occasion. History should tell the truth. The history that tells the truth on this mighty subject will picture to the American people a lesson that time cannot efface. That lesson is that treason is odious (applause). I want to say that to put into the hands of the young people of this country histories that put a premium upon treason and secession is political suicide. If we permit this thing to go on it is only a question of time until patriotism shall be dead; and I say to the Sons of Veterans in this Encampment that I want to stand up shoulder to shoulder with the Grand Army on this question; I want you to face the flag, the one flag, the only flag (applause and cheers), and cheer the Grand

Army of the Republic onward in this great battle. More than that, Sons of Veterans, I am a son of a man who died in Andersonville prison ; he was a native of Georgia, but when his native State went out of the Union—I say to you they did not any of them get out ; they got a devil of a good licking trying to get out (applause)—I say to you that I am representing that father here on this floor, and in his name I demand that the history of this great war shall be a truthful history, and every Son of a Veteran shall join in the efforts of the Grand Army and insist that those who write that history shall write it truthfully. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment has been asked to say whether they are in favor of the resolution. I take it for granted that that is the case and that it is not necessary to put the question. The demonstration that has greeted the sentiments that have been uttered by the speakers shows the feeling of this organization on that subject. I understand the Committee on Resolutions have nothing further to offer at this time.

CHAIRMAN REED: Nothing, Commander, except a request that brothers who have resolutions they desire considered will let us have them at the earliest possible moment in order that we may get through with our work.

PRESENTATION TO PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers of the Encampment, I again introduce to you General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. I desire to remind you that a year ago it was your pleasure to express your great satisfaction at the very kindly feeling that existed between the officers of your Commandery-in-Chief and the then head of the Grand Army of the Republic. I desire to-day to reiterate to you, General Walker, that there is nothing gives us so much pleasure as to meet with the veterans of the war, and particularly we value the interchange of courtesies that lead both of these organizations up to the one desired end. It is not now, it has not been, and it never will be, the purpose of this organization to ask for assistance from the Grand Army of the Republic. On the contrary, it is our aim to establish an organization, to bring it numerically and otherwise to the point where we shall some day, we hope, be able, as your ranks are decimated, to be of assistance to the veterans of the war. We recognize, however, that all new organizations have their troublous times. We have passed through that stage. We have had trials and we have passed through them by the help of such persons as yourself.

In testimony of the many kindnesses that we have been the recipient of at your hands, and the very fraternal feelings that exist between us, this Commandery-in-Chief has authorized its officers to present to you this testimony of their regard. In presenting it I desire to say that it is our wish that you may live many years, and that whenever you shall have occasion to bring into use this loving cup you may think of the boys who gave it to you, and not value it for its intrinsic worth, but think of the sentiment that prompted the gift. (Applause).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER'S REMARKS.

GENERAL WALKER: Commander-in-Chief and brothers of the Sons of Veterans, I did not expect anything of this kind when I came here this morning, but thought merely to bid you God speed in your work of patriotism and loyalty. As I look into your faces this morning I think I can discover the antidote for Debsism and other anarchistic teachings in this country. (Applause).

While we hold open, my young friends, the doors of this country for the entrance of all worthy people of Europe, and while we invite every man and woman to come here who comes to this country for the purpose of bettering their condition and to become good citizens, we have no room for those who come here or those who are driven here, to teach and practice anarchy. (Applause). The red flag is a menace to this government and should go, and the men who teach the principles of the red flag of anarchy should get out of this country. (Applause). If they do not like its institutions and laws, they should get out of it. (Applause). Storage passage is very cheap. (Applause).

You should congratulate yourselves that you are residents, that you are citizens, of this great Republic of these United States of America. But do we stop to think what those words mean—the United States of America? A wilderness of lakes, rivers and forests, changed by the magic wand of free labor into a land of victorious freeman, populous cities and great states; a nation where no man doffs his hat to another except in the courtesy of equals; where no slave's presence dishonors labor; where education is free; where manhood is respected; where scholars and statesmen have made the nineteenth century blaze with the splendor of the gems that have set in the starry diadem of progress! We should all congratulate ourselves upon living in such a blessed land. In the performance of my duties of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army I could feel a wave of patriotism sweeping over the land such as I had not felt since the war. Patriotism is being revived, and I want to say to you young gentlemen here that you are a large factor in the work of teaching patriotism and loyalty. I was sitting some time ago with a friend of mine opposite a school house in a distant state; it was shortly after breakfast and I saw the children trooping into that school house; I saw a flag sent up and then I heard them singing that sweetest song of all the world, when sung by children's voices, led by the sweet soprano of the daughter of my friend, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing." I thought if that were going on all over this land this country would be ever safe and free.

My young friends, you can congratulate yourselves also that you are sons of the men who saved this glorious Republic. How many men in the days to come will reckon their nobility back to Shiloh, Vicksburg or Appomattox! You, the sons, grandsons and great-grandsons will say, my father stood with Thomas at Nashville, or Sherman at Atlanta, or with Grant in the Wilderness, and that is my patent of nobility. As I look into your faces this morning I cannot help in some respect to envy you. You will be actors on a stage of government on which my mortal vision can never rest. In my opinion, the coming years will be the greatest in the history of advancing civilization—in the domain of discovery, art, science, the growth of knowledge and the glory of the Republic; but, crowd your maturer years with all these advantages, there is one experience you can never know—the fierce delight pervading those fateful years when patriotism flashed through this land like an electric thrill, when men forgot party and marched cheerfully to wounds and death that their country might live. How those days continue to rise before us with their memories of tenderness and glory. Many of our comrades fell in that time. They found on the red field of battle a fame that shall endure forever. That which the valor and patriotism of your fathers gained, oh, let their sons preserve: freedom, prosperity, equal rights, the dignity of labor, the supremacy of the laws. These are your heritage; see that you loose it not. Keep the standard of this nation full high and in the advance. (Applause).

I thank you, my friends, from the bottom of my heart for this kind remembrance. As you separate from this gathering may you be constantly under the guardian care of Him who sheltered your fathers in the fierce flame of battle, and finally may you hear from the lips of the Supreme Great Commander, "well done, good and faithful servant." (Applause). I thank you.

RECESS UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, in view of the arrangements made by the Executive Committee for the parade at two o'clock, and the promise made to the Veterans who will be in line to-day not to keep them waiting, exposed to the intense heat of the sun this afternoon, I now move that this body take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. We have promised the Veterans that the line of march will be short and that they will only be kept on their feet for a short time, and it is very desirable that the parade move promptly.

IRA W. CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I propose three cheers for Colonel Walker.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Three cheers for Colonel Walker. Now, altogether.
(Cheers).

COLONEL WALKER: Commander, I beg to thank you all again. I failed to state when I was on the platform that a sudden business call takes me out of the city this afternoon, which I very greatly regret, because it will prevent my being with you at the camp-fire. I wanted to say this so you will understand my absence.

GEORGE W. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I second Brother Noel's motion to take recess until four o'clock.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations have revised the report that was re-committed to them. The Chair would suggest that it be read now so that the brothers may have it in mind and keep it under consideration until we meet this afternoon. If there is no objection the Chair will direct the reading of the report. There seems to be no objection and Brother Gardner will proceed.

Dan S. Gardner, chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read the revised recommendations of the committee as follows:

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

Recommendation No. 1. That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty-five (25) members, of which the present Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief.

Recommendation No. 2. The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves.

Recommendation No. 3. That all recommendations and petitions to the present committee be referred to the above named committee for action.

Recommendation No. 4. Inasmuch as there are no commissions issued, nor rank conferred upon the members of the Camp, Division and Council-in-Chief, we hereby recommend that a commission be issued to the members of said Council and that they bear rank as follows: That the members of the Camp Council shall rank as First Lieutenants, that the members of Division Council shall rank as Majors and the members of the Council-in-Chief as Brigadier-Generals.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I now insist on the motion to take recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until four o'clock p. m. Those in favor of the motion will give their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the Encampment takes recess until four o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Four o'clock p. m.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brothers will come to order. Inspector-General, are all present entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, they are.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Adjutant-General, have you any communications?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following communications:

KNOXVILLE, TENN., September 10th, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, care of S. of V. Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Greetings and best wishes to the Commandery-in-Chief.

E. R. CARTER.

CLEVELAND, O., September 9th, 1897.

To Sons of Veterans' Assembly, Indianapolis, Ind.:

The National Alliance, Daughters of Veterans, wish to extend greetings to their brothers who are in assembly this beautiful day. "May the sons and daughters live long, may all their efforts be crowned with success and may this convention be one of the most successful ones on record" is the wishes of the Daughters of Veterans. With best wishes, in F., C. and L.,

JULIA A. CROFT,
Nat'l Prest. D. of V.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C.,
R. AND R.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question before the Encampment is the consideration of the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read by the chairman of that committee prior to taking recess. I think it would be well to have them read again.

Chairman Gardner read the recommendations of the committee.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me from the reading of the recommendation that it is the intention of the committee to make this revised Constitution operative upon the promulgation of the same by the Commander-in-Chief. I think that would be unconstitutional and I desire to make the point of order that the method suggested for the revision of the Constitution is unconstitutional.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will Brother Orner state his reason for that opinion?

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, the Constitution provides ways and means by which it shall be changed or amended, and the method which is proposed is not the way that is prescribed by the Constitution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Orner is correct in that the Constitution does state how it shall be altered and amended, but, however, if you will refer to the minutes of the Commandery-in-Chief at Wheeling, you will find that it was there decided that this Commandery is a law unto itself, and it is the supreme source of power.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I admit we are a law unto ourselves; that we are the supreme law of the Order, and any action of the Commandery-in-Chief here is constitutional, provided it is not in direct violation of the laws we have already established in this Order. The method proposed to be adopted in altering and amending the present Constitution is first out of order on account of the unconstitutional method by which you propose to adopt it, and in the second place it is out of order because this is an incorporated body. It was incorporated years ago under General Abbott, about the time of the Paterson Encampment, or before that time, in the State of Illinois. Now, if we adopt this recommendation of the committee, the proposed committee of twenty-five may so alter and amend our Constitution as to completely change the character of this organization, and

bring it into direct conflict with our articles of incorporation. As I was one of the incorporators of this Order I would call a halt on that right here.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Do I understand the brother to say that this is an incorporated organization to-day?

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: I so understand it, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair begs leave to differ with the brother.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, if the several Commanders-in-Chief and Councils-in-Chief have done their duty and reported themselves to the State House after each election, we still remain an incorporated body. I am ignorant of any action taken by which we cease to be an incorporated body.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would remind Brother Orner that the Commandery-in-Chief is a migratory body, having its headquarters first in one state and then in another. How could it keep up its incorporation in the State of Illinois?

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me the only power in this land that could incorporate this organization would be the Congress of the United States.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother is absolutely correct. Articles of incorporation such as Brother Orner cites would not hold. The point of order made by Brother Orner I would decide not well taken in that regard. The Chair overrules the point of order.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander—

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, may I ask for the floor for a few moments? I imagine the intention of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations is to secure the first step towards what might be called the optional feature. This would apply practically in this case to the matter of uniforms. Now, without arguing in favor or against, I simply propose to tell you what my opinion is, and what my diagnosis of the report submitted by Brother Gardner is. Anyone who has had any experience with this organization, whether it be as picket guard or Commander-in-Chief, knows that there is a restless element—and I say it kindly, too—a number of long-lost Moseses who believe that their advent in this Order is going to lead it out of all its difficulties; each one of whom, perhaps, is in favor of a reform of some kind that will be for the best interest of the organization. You and I have seen these brothers come in here, and, meteor-like, shoot across the firmament of the Order, and then die out, and the bullrushes fade and dry up.

Whether or not this is an inspiration from some long-lost Moses I am not prepared to say at this time, but certain it is that this Encampment must take definite action in this matter of option, and as I said this forenoon, especially in so far as it relates to the exemplification of the ritual in the several Camps. I think we are agreed upon that; many of us appreciate that. But it is another matter to say whether or not the time has arrived when we should abolish absolutely everything pertaining to uniformity. That is the question at issue before us as I understand it. Now, without attempting to argue as to the constitutionality of this matter—and I have my own opinion as a layman upon it—I want to call the attention of this supreme body to the proposition submitted to it, and that is, that you and I are to waive our rights and delegate the same to a committee of twenty-five. In short, the proposition is to delegate to that committee certain powers that might possibly work to the detriment of the organization later on. That is the one point I desire to call your particular attention to—whether or not it is the part of wisdom to delegate our powers to a committee of twenty-five and let them charter a new constitution which shall become the law of this organization upon its promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief. I submit here, and I say it again in all candor and in all kindness, that it is a dangerous thing to do, a very dangerous thing to do. You and I, my brothers, who have attended many of these Encampments, know that there has been a controversy as to the matter of uniformity; and this question of military organization or semi-military organization will continually jump across our vision and we cannot down it; it is

an absolute impossibility to prevent discussion upon that matter. The great majority of the members of this organization have inherited the blood of a soldier, and they feel that in the uniform of a soldier they look best, act best, and possibly live up to the requirements of the Order best. (Applause). I am not saying that is my individual opinion but I give it simply as a fact, having been an eye witness for a number of years of the workings of this organization. The Commander-in-Chief and the committee, no doubt, would like to see maintained its splendid military spirit. If we could keep up a semi-military organization, and also a civic organization in the Order; afford opportunity to drill or to meet as a historical society without uniform; if, for instance, a body of gentlemen in Chicago desired to meet as a dining organization, they could do so in the evening dress of gentlemen or men who are in the habit of assembling around the mahogany. That would be one thing. But at the same time we have had evidence before us—and I trust the representatives from that Camp will pardon me for referring to it—in the case of the Lafayette Camp, of New York City, a body of very respectable young gentlemen, young men who stood and do stand as high as any body of men in the Republic, and yet those young men are not only willing to wear a uniform, but are apparently proud of it (applause); that is Lafayette Camp and one of the best organizations in this country, no matter what it might be. Again I ask pardon for referring to it.

Now then, my friends, the question has arrived, an interesting question for you and me to decide, what are the ills of this organization as set forth briefly by the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? Is it the same old question? Is it the ghost of the military question again, treading noiselessly across the Encampment floor? If it is we can decide it now. We have decided it once, and I think we have got the courage to meet it again. And so I say I hesitate before I leave this matter to this committee of twenty-five, rather a cumbersome affair, I think, to say the least of it. I hesitate before I leave this matter to a committee of twenty-five. It is a large committee. It is to serve without compensation, and here let me commend the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations for its wisdom in embellishing its report with that latter clause. But, Commander, for one, at least, I am not prepared to vote for a committee of twenty-five at this time. I am prepared, however, to vote to make it optional with the Camps in this country whether they use the ritual or do not use the ritual as they see fit; but I would insist, I want to say, absolutely upon the use of an obligation in every Camp. I do not think any Camp would desire to organize without an obligation. That would, in my opinion, give all these young gentlemen who desire to come into the organization as a historical society, or as a dining club, or as any other kind of an organization, an opportunity to work along the lines of charity, and even greater, the lines of patriotism, and enable them to march with us under the banner of Sons of Veterans.

I did not intend to say this much, but I could not permit the opportunity to go by, for I regard it as a momentous question; I regard it as a proposition of the gravest import that all the powers of the Commandery-in-Chief should be delegated to a committee of twenty-five, which is what the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations proposes. I say this kindly to my brothers of the committee, that as an individual member of this Encampment I am not prepared to endorse their report.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I have the right to appeal from the decision of the Chair in overruling my point of order. I rose for that purpose, but the Chair recognized Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe, and I was willing to hear him. I now move an appeal from the decision of the Chair in overruling my point of order upon the constitutionality of this report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair recognizes Brother Orner's right to appeal. The question then arises, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the decision of the house? Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kennedy may put the question on the appeal.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I rise to a question of information. I am not fully advised as to the subject matter of this appeal; that is to say, as to the language of the Constitution and the manner in which Brother Orner claims that the report of this committee would be a violation of it. I should like information myself on that point.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question comes up on the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. They have made a report. Brother Orner raises the point of order that the report of the committee is unconstitutional, forgetting that it is not an amendment to the Constitution that we are acting upon at the present time, but the report of the committee. The Chair decides that his point of order is not well taken. He takes an appeal from the decision of the Chair that his point is not well taken, and we are about to place before the Encampment the question whether the decision of the Chair shall stand as the decision of the Encampment.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Commander, allow me to state that as I understood it in taking the appeal. The committee came in here with a report recommending the appointment of a committee of twenty-five members, consisting of Past Commanders-in-Chief and others, a quorum of seven being sufficient for the transaction of business, and providing further that that committee shall have power to amend the Constitution in any way it may see fit, and that such Constitution as amended and revised by the committee shall be in force immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief, without any action of the Commandery-in-Chief ratifying or adopting the amendments made by the committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I believe, however, the report of the committee, as it is before this body at present, is subject to any amount of amendment that you may desire to make to it.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Yes, Commander, it is, but the report of this committee of twenty-five will not be before us for amendment or ratification.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Until the question comes upon conferring upon the committee the right to amend the Constitution I have to contend that the question is not one of altering our Constitution.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Commander, the question is whether we have the constitutional right to allow the committee to perform those acts. The question is purely a constitutional question, and on that I take an appeal.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, I think this matter may be cleared up in a moment if Brother Gardner will read the report again. Then we will understand exactly what the report contemplates.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: We will call upon Brother Gardner to again read that report.

The chairman of the committee read Recommendation No. 1 of the report.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana : Commander, perhaps an appeal is not debatable, but I rise to a question of privilege and desire to call the attention of this national body to one very important proposition, and that is this : This is the supreme body of the Order. The sovereignty rests here. It is a proposition of law that where the sovereignty rests in the supreme legislative body that sovereignty cannot be delegated to another body, even by the sovereign body itself. That sovereignty cannot be delegated. I believe it would be constitutional for this body to appoint a committee of twenty-five which might devise a scheme for reorganizing this Order upon a different plan and submit that to the Commandery at the next session, and if the Commandery ratified its action it would be legal and valid, because there the sovereign body makes it its own act; but under the law a committee of twenty-five could not accept a delegation of sovereignty so far as to make the supreme organic law of the Order itself.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I do not know what the views of the committee are on this subject of extending the committee's powers and having it report back to this Encampment. The chairman of the committee can likely tell us.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, I understand now that Brother Orner has appealed from the decision of the Chair and that the appeal is open for debate.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There is no objection to it.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, upon that question, the pure legal question, I wish to be heard. Article VIII of the Constitution of the Commandery-in-Chief reads as follows :

"The Constitution, Rules and Regulations and the ritual of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., shall only be altered or amended by the Commandery-in-Chief by a majority vote of the members reported present and entitled to vote at the stated annual meeting thereof ; but any section herein may be suspended for the time being at an annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief by such majority vote."

Commander, until that section has been repealed and suspended it is the law of our Order. In direct violation of the law it is proposed to amend the Constitution, Rules and Regulations through a committee of twenty-five without your Commandery-in-Chief ever setting eyes upon a single amendment or alteration. I claim that it is unconstitutional and illegal, and this body should not countenance such a proposition for a moment. (Cries of "question," "question.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, an appeal has been taken from the decision of the Commander-in-Chief. Those in favor of the appeal will make it known—those in favor of sustaining the Chair will make it known by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The decision of the Chair seems to be not sustained.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The chairman of the committee will proceed with the report.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I move you, sir, that this section of the report of the committee, this recommendation, or whatever it may be designated, be laid upon the table indefinitely.

IRA CHRISTIAN, of Indiana : Commander, I second the motion.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, I rise to a question of privilege. I believe that this Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief has now a serious matter before it, but instead of moving to lay it on the table, which would shut off all general debate or amendment, I think we should allow the consideration of it for a few moments. I believe there are one or two matters that might be discussed right now for the good of the Order.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, my purpose in making this motion was, if possible, to get at the merits of this question—not to dispose of it upon technical grounds—so that it will not be bobbing up again and again during this Encampment. For myself I hope to have it debated and will be glad to take part in that debate myself.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, may I ask Brother Griffin a question? General Griffin, will you change your motion so as to make it that the recommendation be not concurred in?

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Yes, Commander, I will so modify my motion. I desire to change the motion as suggested by Brother Morgan so that the matter may be debated.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair then understands that the motion now is that the recommendation of the committee be not concurred in. On that motion the Chair recognizes Brother Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander-in-Chief, I want to make a motion and afterwards, perhaps, to explain it. I desire to make the following motion as an amendment, or substitute, amending the report of the committee to read as follows :

"That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider and prepare a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the same principles it now inculcates; the report of said committee to be submitted to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief."

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: My point of order is, Commander, that when this Commandery-in-Chief decided that it was unconstitutional to appoint the committee of twenty-five as provided it disposed of this question entirely?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It did.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I understood Brother Orner to raise the point of order that the report of the committee was unconstitutional?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: We were then considering the first recommendation, considering that section of the report.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: The Commandery-in-Chief decided that it was unconstitutional, so that the report cannot come before this Commandery-in-Chief until it has been altered by the committee. This report of the committee is not before the Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the committee is not before us.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Then Commander, Brother Morgan's motion must come up as a new motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands he is speaking for the committee at this time.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I was about to make a motion that this matter be re-committed to this committee with instructions to incorporate in their report this resolution which I have written very hastily.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands Brother Morgan's aim is to assist this committee and the Commandery-in-Chief by making a motion that is unobjectionable.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me the business of the Encampment is to proceed with the report of this committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the committee is not before us; that is, recommendation number one.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I make the motion that this matter be referred back to the committee with instructions to incorporate a recommendation providing for a committee of five to formulate this plan and present it at the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair cannot accept that motion. The Chair cannot accept a motion to instruct a committee how it shall report. The Chair will entertain a motion to instruct the committee to make another report. That is constitutional. The Chair can accept a motion of that kind, but it cannot accept a motion to instruct a committee definitely as to how it shall report.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, has not the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations the floor at this time?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, then I ask for the regular order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The second section of the report of the committee is then before us.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, the motion which I made has not been disposed of.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion that General Griffin made is out of order for the reason that the first recommendation of that committee was decided by the Encampment to be unconstitutional, and is not before us. The committee will proceed with their report.

Chairman Gardner continued the reading of the report as follows :

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider and prepare a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the same principles it now inculcates ; the same to be reported to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief."

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, is an amendment to that report in order ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I move to insert after the word "consider" in the recommendation of the committee, these words, "the advisability of revising ;" and at the conclusion the words "said committee to serve without compensation," so that the recommendation will read :

"*Recommendation No. —.* That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider the advisability of preparing a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the principles it now inculcates ; the same to be reported to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief ; said committee to serve without compensation."

J. W. NOEL, of Indiana : Commander, I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: Commander, the committee are willing to accept the second amendment, that said committee serve without compensation, but not the first.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I insist on my first amendment, to insert after the word "consider" the words "the advisability of," so that the recommendation will read, "That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider the advisability of preparing a revision," etc.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : And the committee is not to do anything, even if they do consider it necessary.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, my brother, the ex-Judge Advocate-General and Past Commander-in-Chief, can place his own interpretation on my humble language.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the amendment acceptable to the committee ?

CHAIRMAN GARDNER : No, Commander, it is not.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the amendment. All in favor of the same will give their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. The ayes seem to have it ; the amendment is carried and the insertion will be made. The question now recurs on the recommendation of the committee as amended.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I desire to hear the recommendation read as amended.

The recommendation of the committee as amended was read.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, the committee would rather withdraw the whole business than leave it that way.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, that resolution as amended means nothing. It appoints a committee to consider the advisability of doing something, to report to this Encampment. That is, the committee, under this resolution, would report to the next Encampment whether it is advisable to amend the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of

this Order, and the Encampment would be just where it is to-day. That means nothing. Of course every man, when he considers it in that light, must be opposed to the resolution, unless he wants it to remain as it is.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, I think we have weakened the matter rather than strengthened it. Why not abolish the one objectionable feature in the whole arrangement, that of delegating our powers to the committee, and let the rest stand.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, my point of order is that there is no motion before this house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question before the house is on the adoption of the recommendation of the committee as amended.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, we have obviated the objection made with reference to delegating our power to the committee; but, Commander, the committee evidently have thought out a carefully prepared plan, perhaps at the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief, of ascertaining the difficulty that now besets our Order, and perhaps have considered a plan for removing some of the obstacles. Now, Commander, I am heartily in favor of the original resolution with the feature of delegating our power to the committee stricken out. I believe that if we commit to a committee of Past Commanders-in-Chief and others, representative men of the Order, who have had long experience, these questions, and they report to us at our next Commandery-in-Chief meeting, we will have something that we can accept in toto. I am opposed to this suggestion of a committee of five. As was suggested by a brother on the other side of the hall, it means nothing. I would like to see the original proposition to appoint a committee of twenty-five, to report to the next Encampment, adopted. I, therefore, move as a substitute, the original proposition, with the one feature, delegating the power of the Encampment to that committee, omitted.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I second Brother Patton's substitute.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I just want to say that Brother Griffin understands my position exactly. I am not in favor, unless good and sufficient reasons for it are advanced here and now, of cutting up our Constitution, Rules and Regulations. (Applause.) What is this great evil that is talked about? What is this great evil that the brothers are declaiming about in this hall to-day? I want to know what it is. So does every man here want to know what it is. If any great evil exists let us hear it now; and if no evil, as a matter of fact, does exist, I want to see this recommendation adopted as amended. I cannot understand the demand for a revision of this Constitution. It has been tinkered with and retinkered with, rejuvenated and rejuvenated, inspired and re-inspired with the genius of distinguished members, and with the scissors and glue-pot, and what is the result? We are absolutely and precisely where we started from. I ask again if any evil exists here, in the name of patriotism and the good of the Order, out with it; present it to us here and now. If not, let us vote for the resolution as amended.

J. E. HAYCRAFT, of Minnesota: Commander, some of the brothers talk as though this committee had arrived at their conclusions and made their report from their own imaginings. That there are evils existing is evidenced by the fact that petitions and recommendations came in upon that committee thick and fast from individuals, Camps and Divisions suggesting and asking for amendments and additions to this Constitution.

This committee believed that five men could not in thirty-six or forty-eight hours give the proper consideration to those petitions and recommendations, and that was one reason why we offered our resolution recommending the appointment of a committee of twenty-five men, to be composed of the Past Commanders-in-Chief and the men who best understand the workings of this Order, to act upon them. We placed upon this committee the men who have been in command of the Order, so that we would have an in-

telligent body who could go home and quietly think this matter over and properly consider these various suggestions, away from the excitement of the Commandery-in-Chief. We provided that they should meet at some place to be designated by them, and after carefully considering these questions make their report. In order that it might not be said that it was a junketing trip at the expense of the Commandery-in-Chief we provided that they should pay their own expenses.

We did not mention any specific changes in the Constitution. Some of the brothers treat this case as hypothetical. One supposes that it means a change of uniform and option. Another supposes that it means a change in the ritual, and another that we are going to become a civic organization. But we mention no such things in the report. Our idea was simply to leave it to the committee of twenty-five good and true brothers, the best that we could pick in the organization; to have them deliberate upon these questions and consider them carefully without being forced to reach a conclusion in thirty-six or forty-eight hours. We decided upon this course upon reading the communications that came to us making recommendations and pointing out evils that it was thought could be remedied. We did not decide upon this course because we imagined evils existed or from personal interests. We had matters before that committee that are not before this Encampment. There are evils existing. Some are pointed out at some length in the report of the Commander-in-Chief; others, as I say, in petitions and recommendations. We cannot enumerate them here, but they exist. None will dispute that, and the committee simply wanted the subject to have good and sufficient consideration.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I have my own peculiar ideas as to the work of this committee, if it should be appointed, but that is neither here nor there. The power given to that committee is outlined in the resolution. Now, so far as the objections that are made to the appointment of this committee are concerned, they are without any force whatsoever, for this reason: The action of this committee, whatever it may be, whether it be to advise the adoption of an entirely new Constitution or not, must come before this body when it meets again in annual Encampment for consideration. If that report does not suit the body when it again assembles, and the report is laid before it, this body can reject the report. No expense is to be incurred. This body suffers no inconvenience, incurs no responsibility whatever, by appointing this committee. I believe I am warranted in saying that if this resolution is adopted there will be a sufficient number of brothers appointed upon that committee to constitute at least a quorum who are patriotic enough, loyal enough to this Order to sacrifice their own means in order to meet and formulate what they may think will best satisfy the needs and requirements of this Order, even if it be for a week or a month. I know there is one who is willing to do it, willing to do anything he can to save this Order. You may sit here and say it is no use, that the Constitution is all right; but there is something wrong, and whatever it may be, we want to discover it. If the committee can discover it, it will do the wisest thing and the best thing that has been done for the Order in the sixteen years of its existence. There is something wrong. You cannot say what it is. I might have my own ideas. You may have yours. But we would not, perhaps, agree. But perhaps this committee can solve the difficulty. Give it a chance, at least, for you are not taking any responsibility in so doing. You are incurring no expense. You are at liberty to repudiate its action. But it may be, when the time comes, that you will be willing to accept it.

Now, as the Commander-in-Chief has pointed out, we are going steadily down hill in about the same ratio every year, and it is only a matter of arithmetical progression, or digression, or loss, until we are wiped out of existence. I suppose there will be a few of us who will come here each year, but pretty soon there will not be enough left, although the per capita tax be increased to pay the expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief meeting. There must be something done. I have my idea of what that should be. If I am upon that committee I will give that committee the benefit of my ideas. It would not do any good for me to suggest them here, because at this time I believe they would be unpopular. But there are many brothers to whom I have talked who are heartily in accord with the theory I have

entertained and that is, briefly, that it is necessary to change the whole form of our organization.

We are modeled after the Grand Army of the Republic, but the Grand Army of the Republic is constituted upon a different basis of membership. Its members are men who bared their breasts to treason's bullets to save the flag. We are not made of that kind of timber. We are only honoring our fathers' memory, in an organization that is purely an honorary one, with the other idea of the preservation of the flag under which our fathers fought; but after all we are only an honorary organization. Call it what you please it is primarily that; and if we go about this in the right way, to make this Order what it ought to be, we will make it purely an honorary organization, something like the Sons of the American Revolution, the Loyal Legion and others. I know a great many will not agree with me in this opinion, but after you think this thing over, after you compare these orders with ours in the light of the events which called them into existence, and in the light of the events which called our Order into existence, you will change your mind I warrant you. This is a matter for the committee to consider. Let this committee be appointed and let it do its work. When its report is made to you in another year then, if it seems to offer you some relief, for relief it must offer or we stare the end in the face, adopt its report; but, if it does not, reject its conclusions and appoint another committee to act in the same way until you find out what is the matter. Do not reject everything. Do not say it is no use. Do something. Let us work. Let us put some body to work to devise ways and means by which we, in the rank and file, may be enabled to work successfully for the upbuilding of this Order of which we are so proud. (Applause).

H. L. VEAZEY, of Alabama: Commander, we have been doctoring the Constitution ever since I have been a member of the Order, and yet we have not got well.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, my point of order is that the brothers are not speaking to the question before the house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The point of order is well taken. The question before the house is on the adoption of the recommendation of the committee as amended by the amendment of Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander and gentlemen, this seems to me to be a very important question. I think none of us question the sincerity and good faith of this committee in making this report. Certainly none of us question the sincerity and good faith of the Commander-in-Chief in making his report and the recommendations and suggestions which it contains. As I said before I am in favor of determining this question upon its merits and determining it here and now (applause); sweeping aside everything that is in the way. At every Encampment which I have attended for twelve years we have heard these same speeches. Every brother who has attended the Encampments that long will recognize the fact. It has been constantly and annually said that the Constitution is at fault; amend the Constitution; there is something wrong in the Order; amend the By-Laws; change the organic principles, the rules that we are governed by. At every Encampment there has been amendments made to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of some kind or other, and yet the same cry comes up. I remember distinctly at the St. Joseph Encampment, which some of you attended, seven years ago, yielding to that pressure and the then pretty general belief that the Constitution of the Order was at fault and should be amended, I had the honor of appointing a committee of five of the very ablest, and, as I supposed, the most experienced gentlemen in this Order, to report a new Constitution, Rules and Regulations at the next Encampment; and they reported that Constitution, Rules and Regulations to the Encampment at Minneapolis after having had a year to consider it. That committee did just what it is proposed now to have done over again. They took a year to consider; they reported at Minneapolis a

new Constitution. Then the next year that was amended, and the next year and the next; and if this organization lives fifty or a hundred years, which God grant it may, we will amend it every year.

Now, I do not believe that the fault is with the Constitution of this Order. The fault lies somewhere else. But, if it does, what is the question before us? The question, in fact, rises upon the report of the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief practically recommends that we abolish the military portion of this organization. The committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations reports recommending that that recommendation be adopted; it is ruled out for unconstitutionality. As a substitute now a committee of five is to be appointed to report at the next Encampment. What? What will that committee report? Why, if you appoint that committee under this resolution, in view of the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, that committee will report that the military portion of this organization be abolished, as sure as it rises in that Encampment to report. That is what it means. That is the question that confronts this organization, as I take it, from these reports of the Commander-in-Chief and of the committee and the arguments that have been made here. I am opposed to it. (Applause and cries of "right you are.") I believe, gentlemen, that one of the difficulties with this organization has been a kind of false pride. For myself, I am not ready to abolish the old blue coat and brass buttons that my father wore. (Applause). You may call it sentiment if you like, for sentiment it is; and sentiment is what rules this world and patriotism rules this government. (Applause). I say that every time you put a man out upon the street uniformed in blue, he is a standing evidence not only of his own patriotism, but the patriotism of his father and his father's comrades. This question goes to the vital portion of this organization. The trouble has not been, as I said at the outset, with the Constitution. The trouble, I take it, in the last five or six years, has been the adverse financial condition of the country. That is what has affected this organization. It has affected every organization in the United States adversely. There is no doubt about it. But the signs of the times are better, it must be admitted; we are just entering, if I do not mistake the indications, upon another wave of prosperity, and upon that wave of prosperity this Order, if you will let it alone, will launch forth upon another era of enthusiasm and progress and increase of membership such as it has not known for the last five or six years. (Applause). Let it alone. Give it a chance to live and it will live. It will grow and it will prosper and it will increase in numbers. For God's sake let it alone. Do not tinker with it every year and every year when we come here to these Commandery-in-Chief meetings.

I am opposed to the appointment of any committee of five or twenty-five. The measure proposed now providing for a committee of twenty-five seems to me to be absurd, because, if you appoint a committee of twenty-five, they will never get together. Everybody knows that. Two or three men will do the business, and those two or three will report, just as I said a moment ago, to abolish the military features of this organization, and to that I am opposed. (Applause).

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, while I feel that we are all out of order, in a technical sense, yet this question has been open to debate, and I feel that I am at liberty to transgress the strict parliamentary law and express my opinion as well as my colleagues and friends in this organization. I know I am out of order, as Brother Griffin was out of order, but if you will permit me I would like to say a few words.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: You have permission.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander and brothers, we are not discussing just where the trouble lies. I am not so discouraged over the prospect of this organization. My experience dates even back of Brother Griffin's time and I can verify all that he has said concerning this continual tinkering with the Constitution. I want to say to you that in the early days of this organization, when we scarcely had a Constitution, when Brother Merrill carried home with him all the possessions of the Commandery-in-Chief in his grip-sack, without a Constitution, without anything, the Order did grow to magnificent proportions. No Constitution was essential. We

had all kinds of rituals. Men did as they pleased, and the Order grew. In the succeeding years we continued to grow, notwithstanding we had a very poor Constitution. The point is that the Constitution is not the essential thing in this organization. My brothers, you cannot legislate men into this Order any more than you can legislate them into heaven. Prosperity comes from hard work, and I am proud of the work that was done in the days gone by. I am proud of what has been accomplished by this organization. Granted that we have mustered one hundred and fifty thousand men and only show a membership of thirty-two thousand at the present time, every one of the hundred and fifty thousand has taken the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States and can never forget that obligation, and the lessons of patriotism that he learned within the organization will not be without good effect. Thank God they will each and every one of them be loyal citizens. So the work of the organization has not been lost. I well remember, and my friends will verify it—perhaps it does not appear in my reports—but I did predict in the very heyday of our success that we would soon enter upon a period of shrinkage. It is the history of all organizations. It is the history of the Grand Army of the Republic. We are now going through that stage. We are going through the stage that children go through when they have chicken-pox and scarlet fever and diphtheria and whooping cough, but we will get through, and we will thank God some day that we went through it. (Applause). I am not afraid of the chicken-pox or the small-pox in this organization. We will win out.

Now I will tell you, my brothers, the lesson we have been learning, each one of you in his own Division and in his own Camp. Every one of you can recall Camps in your Division that melted away until there was scarcely a quorum left. I know a dozen such in my own city of Chicago. What has been the result? They have gone through the chicken-pox and the whooping cough and again come up with a fine, handsome membership. The Camp is the foundation, and its condition is indicative of the condition of the Order throughout the country. Of course the national organization moves in larger waves. We go deeper and we rise higher, but we will win out after all. The trouble does not lie in our good old Constitution at all. It does not lie in our ritual. We have ritual tinkers and Constitution doctors every year, as my friend Maccabe says—and he knows all about it—Moseses, that are going to lead the Order out of all its difficulties. But, my friends, every Moses has proven a disappointment. Every year there is another Moses who is going to lead us into the promised land without work. That is where the trouble is. There is where the main point lies. I dare say—and I am almost tempted to bring the question right up here, only I do not want to make us all blush—by asking how many members of this Encampment have visited their Camp rooms six times within the last six months? (Applause); I would just like to know how many members of this Encampment got a man into the Order in the last six months? (Applause and cries of "good"). There is where the trouble is. There is where the work is, or the lack of it. I want to say to you, my friends, when I was enlisted—I know it is distasteful to speak of what I have done myself—nevertheless, I want to praise the boys who held up my hands, a long line of Colonels who are the leading men of the Order to-day; one of my most earnest supporters is the Commander-in-Chief of the organization to-day, and I dare say he has not done half the solid work as Commander-in-Chief that he did as Colonel of the Division of Pennsylvania. I see another brother here, General Loebenstein, who brought his Division up to a membership of twenty-seven hundred, and to-day it is back to nine hundred. I could designate a dozen able Colonels who were then in the field doing work, not for any salary, but for love of the Order. That was the kind of work that accomplished something. That was the kind of work that made our organization prosperous; and I tell you, brothers, there is where the trouble lies. It is in getting the members in the Order to attend Camp and see that the work is properly carried out. It is the same question of false pride that Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin referred to. We think the dignity of office prevents our getting out in the byways and highways and bringing the sons of our old comrades into the fold, as we used to do when we were only hungry for office. (Applause). I have been there.

In reply to my friend Russell I wish to say that we can never constitute this Order on the principles or after the manner of the Loyal Legion or Sons of the American Revolution. We are composed of entirely different material. We are a more democratic organization. We are for the rank and file. We want to bring in here the sons of the boys that carried muskets and this flag, the sons of the boys that defended this Union. I would like to ask Brother Russell where he would rather be to-day in case of war, at the head of the Sons of Veterans, or at the head of the Sons of the American Revolution? I can say that because I am on both sides. To-day we have a larger membership than either of those organizations, than either one of them will ever have. The sentiment is somewhat different in the two organizations, and you cannot change that sentiment. As Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin has said, this is an organization of sentiment and you cannot change it, and you cannot model it after the Sons of the American Revolution or the Loyal Legion, because we are organized on a different sentiment, a different principle. You cannot put the sentiment of the Loyal Legion into the Sons of Veterans. You cannot put it there any more than you can put the sentiment of the Sons of the Southern Confederacy into the Sons of Veterans—not that I want to make any comparison between the Loyal Legion and the Sons of the Southern Confederacy, because the Loyal Legion is composed of officers who served in the United States Army with credit and distinction—but I am speaking of the organizations. The organizations are based on different principles, therefore they cannot be made the same. It seems to me, my brothers, that the question is altogether outside of the Constitution, and while I do not object to your appointing all the committees in the world you want to, I do not believe it can accomplish anything. I am willing they should be appointed, but I tell you there is no use tinkering with this Constitution or with this ritual. Brother Maccabe is right. Let there be an option on the ritual. There may be little things that can be changed, that is all right, but you are not going to make this Order prosperous by changing the Constitution every year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The question is on the appointment of this committee, and we are not considering the ritual. I think, perhaps, we have discussed the question to the point where all the members of this Encampment can vote intelligently.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York : Commander, I am delighted with what I have heard. While I have not long been a member of this organization, it has been my privilege and pleasure to be a member of that other organization, the grandest in the United States of America, from its inception, the Grand Army of the Republic. (Applause). And I have heard there in the Post and in our National Encampments similar discussions upon the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic to this I have heard to-day about your Constitution, Rules, Regulations and ritual. The Grand Army of the Republic went through this same kind of a sweat once, and we had three grades in the Grand Army. We thought that would remedy the evil of lack of membership. We had the recruit, the soldier and the veteran, and we fired over the coffin with the skull and cross-bones and all that kind of folderol. It did not bring any membership into the G. A. R. I tell you, brothers, what you want is recruiting officers for your Camps. You will then have no trouble about raising your per capita tax from sixteen to twenty cents. The boys must get after the fathers. They neglect their sons, many of them. You must make the fathers help you bring in the sons. (Applause). That is what you want. The boys in blue have neglected their sons. While their sons were standing with ears open and mouth open, and eyes watching eagerly for information, the fathers have not given it to the boys in the quantity that they were anxious to receive it and on all proper occasions; and I must say as a member of the G. A. R. there is too much jealousy of the Sons on the part of the G. A. R. I am speaking from personal knowledge. I have heard a Grand Army man of prominence in the city where I live say, "I do not countenance the Sons of Veterans because they come to the veterans and ask for help; they should help us." That is true, but we are now in the state that the Grand Army was previous to 1878 and 1879; since then we have been swimming on the flood tide of public sentiment. We are where they were previous to

1878, but we are going to be where they are now, by and by (applause) we will be where the Grand Army will require and receive our help. I am referring now to the younger boys. I will not be among those who will require your help, brothers, but you will bestow it upon those who do and I am going to help the younger brothers to be what I want them to be before I die—the grandest, numerically and in every other sense, organization in the United States of America. You are organized on the right basis. Your Constitution has the right foundation. It is patriotism, and that is enough. You have fathers to help you and you must see that they do so. I think if you will give this question a rest and pay more attention to the matter of recruiting officers you will get at the bottom of your difficulties very soon.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, the janitor of the building has made a request that we try and vacate this building by six o'clock. It seems to me that the question has been fully discussed and very ably discussed. What is the pleasure of the Encampment? (Cries of "question," "question"). The question is upon—does Brother Patton insist upon his substitute motion?

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, it will take but a moment to vote upon it. I do.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, my point of order is that the committee has the right to close this debate if they so desire.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is perfectly proper. The committee has the right to be heard in closing the discussion. Debate will then cease. The Encampment desires to vote on the question. The Chair recognizes Brother Gardner to close the discussion on behalf of the committee.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, with the consent of my second I will withdraw my substitute motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question then recurs upon the adoption of the recommendation of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations as amended by Brother Maccabe. The recommendation of the committee was that the incoming administration appoint a committee of five to revise the Constitution, and Brother Maccabe's amendment makes it read that the incoming administration shall appoint a committee of five to consider the advisability of revising the Constitution.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, the committee will be heard through Brother Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I wish Brother Patton would hold to his amendment and let us vote on his proposition.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Patton has withdrawn his motion.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: (Cries of "question," "question"). Commander, I do not believe the boys will make any time by calling question on me for I can stand here quite awhile. I am not chosen to close this debate because I am able to present points either forcibly or completely, but because I have been talking around a good deal and the boys think I have something to say.

Past Commanders-in-Chief Abbott and Griffin and Maccabe are three men that I have a great deal of respect for. I love to hear Brother Griffin and Brother Abbott talk about uniforms, but where are they? Where are your uniforms, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott and Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin? (Applause).

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, if the brother will point out the section of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Order which prescribes a uniform for a Past Commander-in-Chief I will be pleased to wear one. Until he does that I have no right to wear one.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BUCKLEY: Commander, before the committee has an opportunity to close this debate I want to say a word for the South.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Debate has closed.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I did not intend to make the point so personal, but Commander-in Chief Griffin and Brother Abbott incidentally said that the reason why we did not get ahead was because we did not work so enthusiastically and show to the country that we are proud of the uniform; and I thought they ought to wear one whether the Constitution made them do it or not.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I want to say that I appeared in uniform on the first day of the Encampment, and the Commander-in-Chief personally excused me from wearing it because I am not used to such a hot climate.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott says, if he will excuse me for referring to him personally, that there is probably nothing the matter with the Order. He states that when the Order was young it was flourishing. Every man who has ever organized a Camp will tell you that at first, during the first few months or the first year or two, it was successful; but where is your Division of Illinois now that used to be on top? You have had good workers there.

Brother Maccabe, you said you believed there was nothing the matter with the Order. You worked faithfully, but the Order lost membership under your term of office as Commander-in-Chief.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: It would have lost under you too, Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: I know it would. Now we are going back to our Divisions and our Camps. They will ask what did you do at the Commandery-in-Chief? They are all complaining, you know that. They will ask what did you do at the Commandery-in-Chief to remedy the difficulties that we are encountering. We will have to say "nothing," unless you adopt this report. Even if the report is adopted you can only say that "the Encampment appointed a committee to consider if something could not be done." Do you want us to go back and say that the Encampment even refused to vote in favor of that? Now, I ask you to vote in favor of the appointment of a committee to consider and see if something cannot be done to stop the decrease in our membership. The decrease began before the hard times began. The decrease began in 1891, and the hard times did not begin until 1893. Let us go back to the Camps and say we have set some men, in whom we have confidence, to work on this question, and they will report to us next year if by their judgment something cannot be done.

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan: Commander, Michigan is going up hill now. We are gaining.

C. R. CLARK, of Illinois: Commander, the Illinois Division increased eight hundred members in the past year by good hard work.

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan: Commander, the Michigan Division has doubled in the last year; we do not want any change in the Constitution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the recommendation of the committee as amended by Brother Maccabe. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The recommendation of the committee as amended is lost. The chairman of the committee will proceed with recommendation number two. (Cries of "division," "division"). A division is called for. The committee submitted a recommendation. Brother Maccabe moved to amend the recommendation by inserting several words. Brother Patton offered a substitute motion and with the consent of his second withdrew it. Brother Maccabe's amendment was adopted, and you have been debating for the last three-quarters of an hour the question of the adoption of the committee's report as amended, and you have voted upon it. The first recommendation of the committee was lost.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, did not the last question stand upon the amendment offered by Brother Maccabe?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment voted to incorporate Brother Maccabe's amendment into the report of the committee, and the entire recommendation of the committee was lost.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you now that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of this Encampment.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I would like to inquire whether this committee has completed its labors.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is unable to say.

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: No, Commander, they have not.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, it strikes me that would be an unwarranted insult. It would be discourteous to the committee and Sons of Veterans should ever be courteous. I hope that the motion will be withdrawn.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I understood the committee was through. With the consent of my second, I withdraw the motion. I thought they had completed their report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion to discharge the committee is withdrawn. The committee will proceed with the third recommendation of their report.

Chairman Gardner proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

"The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves." (Laughter).

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move that the recommendation of the committee be concurred in.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is hardly necessary to consider this recommendation in view of the action of the Commandery-in-Chief on the preceding recommendations of the committee. The same is true of the fourth recommendation.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Now, Commander, is the report of the committee completed?

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: That disposes of the present report of the committee.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, that was my understanding. I thought the report of the committee was virtually completed before when I made my motion.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Speelman has the floor at present. Does Brother Speelman desire to make a motion?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I now renew my motion that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair desires to say to Brother Speelman that the committee have finished their report as they prepared it this morning, but they have a mass of matter before them which they have not considered which they would now consider and report upon. But if you desire the discharge of this committee it will be discharged.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I renew my motion.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be now discharged with the thanks of the Encampment. Are you ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion will give their assent by the usual vot-

ing sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. The motion appears to be carried. The motion is carried and the committee is discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I attempted to get recognition before the Chair put the motion, because I have an amendment to the Constitution to propose which should be referred to that committee. Now that the committee has been discharged I presume it will be in order to offer it directly to the house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Not under the present order of business. That could be presented under the head of new business. The next business under the regular order is the continuation of the report of the Committee on Resolutions. Has that committee anything further to report?

CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions as follows:

Resolutions presented by Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong, of Indiana, endorsing the action of the G. A. R., petitioning Congress to enact a law providing for military instruction in the public schools, and to that end authorizing the detail of officers of the U. S. Army; and providing further, that the Sons of Veterans use their utmost endeavors to further the cause of the bill to be presented in the National Congress, and that a copy of said resolutions be sent to each U. S. Senator and Representative, with a request that they give their influence and cordial active support to the measure.

The resolutions are as follows:

"WHEREAS, The defence of the nation is dependent on levies of volunteers.

"WHEREAS, It is well recognized that the levies of untrained men are not effective as soldiers.

"WHEREAS, The nation may be confronted with a condition of war too rapidly to give time for effective training to such volunteers.

"WHEREAS, The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic have repeatedly declared that such emergencies should be provided for by giving military instruction in the public schools, and they have charged themselves with the work of endeavoring to have this realized.

"WHEREAS, The Grand Army of the Republic frequently have caused to be introduced into both Houses of Congress bills to authorize the details of officers and non-commissioned officers of the U. S. Army to give military instruction in the public schools.

"WHEREAS, Such bills, although favorably reported on by the committees to which they have been referred, have heretofore finally failed of enactment.

"WHEREAS, The Sons of Veterans are equally impressed with the Grand Army of the Republic with the necessity of thus partially providing for the National defence. Be it

"Resolved, By the Sixteenth Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, that we must be measurably prepared for war if we would avoid having it forced upon us.

"Resolved, That the Order of the Sons of Veterans use its utmost endeavor and influence to cause the bill referred to to be brought to the point of enactment; and

"Resolved, That an official copy of these resolutions be sent to each Senator and Representative in Congress, with a request that they give their influence and cordial active support to this measure and cause it to be enacted."

Your committee earnestly and warmly recommend the foregoing, and report affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to this resolution?

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I move that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution reported by the committee be adopted by a rising vote. All in favor of the motion will please rise. Be seated. Those opposed will rise. The motion is carried unanimously.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Resolutions presented by Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong, of Indiana, recognizing the necessity for reform of a radical nature in the matter of history taught in our public schools, to the end that the true story of the suppression of the ungodly rebellion be taught the children of the whole country, and warmly endorsing the action of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. in this matter and pledging our earnest support, and providing for the appointment of a committee of five by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with similar committee of the G. A. R.

Those resolutions are as follows :

"*Resolved*, That this Encampment fully recognizes the necessity of a reform in the matter of the histories now in use in the public schools of our country, to the end that they may furnish a more correct and patriotic account of the important period covering the war for the suppression of the rebellion, and we fully endorse the action of the last National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, in this matter and pledge them our earnest co-operation ; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, and to report their action to the next Commandery-in-Chief."

The Committee on Resolutions realize that this is a question of most vital importance to the future of our American Republic, and warmly recommend its adoption and enthusiastically report it affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: After the action taken by the Encampment this morning it is unnecessary to put the question on the adoption of these resolutions. Unless there is objection they will be considered as adopted. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the resolutions are adopted unanimously.

These are the resolutions that were considered this morning upon which Judge Marsh spoke.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Commandery-in-Chief and all Sons of Veterans are due and are hereby warmly tendered to that patriotic and earnest champion of our cause, Comrade John McElroy, of the *National Tribune*, for the valued and earnest support he has given us ; and that we commend him and his patriotic journal and warmly urge every brother of the Order to give it substantial and willing aid and support. Your committee believe that the good that Comrade McElroy and his paper have done and will continue to do our cause cannot be fittingly expressed in words, and we, therefore, urge practical support for the *National Tribune*. Reported affirmatively by the committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to this resolution?

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa : Commander, while I do not object to the extension of our thanks to Brother McElroy for aiding us through his paper I would insist, if this resolution be adopted, that we also insert the names of some of our own journals which are edited and published by our own boys solely in our interest, which are published unselfishly and at financial loss to the publishers. I would insist upon the insertion of the names of some of our papers.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Commander, I have no doubt that if the brother will merely suggest the names to the committee they will include them in the resolution.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa : Commander, I speak feelingly on this subject because in the past I ventured to push my little journalistic bark

on the sea and for a number of years published an S. of V. paper at a loss. I am not now interested, but there are others in the field and I know that none of these boys are making anything out of it. They are doing splendid service for us, as is the comrade who publishes the *National Tribune*, who occupies a larger field at a profit. In the name of justice I ask that the names of some of our own journals be inserted in the resolution.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I will be very glad to move the adoption of a resolution that this committee be instructed to present a resolution applying to Sons of Veterans' papers. I feel it ought to be done.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, on behalf of the committee I will say that one reason for presenting this resolution was because Comrade McElroy was not a member of this organization. He came here to help us because he believed that our influence for good was something, and his action commended itself to us because he was not a member of the Order. Nothing else was presented to us. The committee will be glad to consider such a resolution as was suggested.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands there is no further objection, providing permission is given to introduce a resolution applying to Sons of Veterans' papers.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Permission being given to introduce such a resolution I withdraw my objection.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the Commandery-in-Chief hereby express to the Governor and officers of the State of Indiana, the Mayor and citizens and a generous press of Indianapolis, our high appreciation of the cordial and generous hospitality extended to us during this sixteenth annual session; and that to General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., Captain William H. Armstrong and others, who have honored us by their presence and kindly courtesy, we extend our warmest thanks and greeting.

"*Resolved*, That we shall return to our homes with the pleasant recollection that the efforts of the brothers of the Division of Indiana, and of Indianapolis particularly, to entertain and make our stay in Hoosierdom one of unalloyed pleasure, has been more than successful, and words fail in our desire to express what we feel, but politics nor distance shall ever erase from our hearts the pleasures of our meeting here."

Affirmatively reported by the committee.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, I move the adoption of this resolution by rising vote.

ORANGE H. COOK, of Massachusetts: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote. Any remarks?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I would suggest the insertion of the name of Judge Marsh in that resolution.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, I thank the brother for the suggestion. That was intended, but was afterwards neglected by the committee.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I suggest the insertion of Rear Admiral Brown's name also.

CHAIRMAN REED: The committee will accept that suggestion with thanks. The resolution will then read:

"*Resolved*, That the Commandery-in-Chief hereby express to the Governor and officers of the State of Indiana, the Mayor and citizens and generous press of Indianapolis, our high appreciation of the cordial and generous hospitality extended to us during this sixteenth annual session; and that to General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., Captain William H. Armstrong, Judge Marsh and Rear Admiral Brown and others, who have honored us by their presence and kindly courtesy, we extend our warmest thanks and greeting.

"*Resolved*, That we shall return to our homes with the pleasant recollection that the efforts of the brothers of the Division of Indiana, and of Indianapolis particularly, to entertain and make our stay in Hoosierdom one of unalloyed pleasure, has been more than successful, and words fail in our desire to express what we feel; but politics nor distance shall ever erase from our hearts the pleasures of our meeting here."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted by a rising vote. Those in favor of the motion will please rise to their feet. Be seated. Those opposed rise. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

"*Resolved*, That Commander-in-Chief Jas. L. Rake and his able staff, by their untiring efforts in behalf of the Order, have won our admiration and love, and that we extend to them our fraternal regards and warmest wishes for their future success and prosperity."

Approved and recommended by the committee.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, I move you, sir, that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote.

IRA CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted by rising vote. Those in favor of the motion will please rise. Be seated. Those opposed please rise. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee have nothing further to report at present. The report thus far disposes of everything that has been presented to us. There are several brothers who spoke to the committee of resolutions they had to submit, but so far they have not been placed in our possession.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The committee will be continued for the present.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MERRILL.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move the suspension of the rules of the Commandery-in-Chief for the purpose of yielding the floor for a few moments to the Division of Maine, in order that they may present a special matter. I hope there will be no objection.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I am sure the Commandery will not object at all when they learn the object of the motion. I suppose it may be taken by consent. (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent is granted and the Chair recognizes Colonel Soule, of Maine.

ARTHUR L. SOULE, of Maine: Commander:

My appearance before you at this time suggests to me a pleasant duty, as well as a privilege, to perform on behalf of the Maine Division, Sons of Veterans.

Recognizing that distinguished services are worthy of approbation and call forth on behalf of the boys of Maine a substantial testimonial, I appear before you at this time to present to this honorable body the crayon portrait of a brother of this Order, a member of our Division, who has in days gone by served in the capacity of Commander-in-Chief.

We feel that, in order to get into line and to pay the honor due this brother, we should at this time, in accordance with the custom in recent years established, present to you his portrait, that it may be hung upon the walls of the Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters, to assist in the completion of that grand galaxy of portraits of our Past Commanders, as well as to serve as a token of the love and regard that we wish to bestow upon this brother at this time.

General Frank P. Merrill, Past Commander in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans of the U. S. A., was born in Buckfield, Me., November 19, 1852. His father, Thomas Merrill, was a member of Co. D, Berdan's Sharpshooters, and served from the Fall of 1861 to the close of the war. At the age of sev-



FRANK P. MERRILL,

Past Commander-in-Chief.

1883.



enteen General Merrill joined the Maine Militia, serving in every grade until elected Captain of his company, a position which he resigned on taking command of the Sons of Veterans.

In 1882 his attention was called to the organization of the Sons of Veterans, and he assisted General I. S. Bangs in organizing the State of Maine into the first permanent Division in the United States, of which he was elected Colonel. In the Fall of 1883 he was elected by acclamation to the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, being the first elected Commander-in-Chief of that organization. Under his command the Order had a wonderful growth, and on his retirement from office, at the end of his term, he was presented with an elegant solid gold badge as a testimonial of the regard in which he was held by his brethren. He has always been an earnest worker and has spent time and money liberally for the good of the Order.

We, therefore, of the Maine Division, the sixth largest Division of our Order, are pleased to present this portrait at this time in recognition of our regard for General Merrill's services to our Order. We feel that in a large measure the success of our organization, particularly in Maine and New England, was due to the energy and conscientious work of this brother. To-day the Massachusetts Division, in numerical strength, is the second largest in the Order.

The New England States comprise nearly one-quarter of the entire number of Camps and over one-quarter of the membership of the Order.

Of the New England Divisions Maine to-day has the proud distinction of holding second honors in numerical strength, numbering, as we do, nearly 1,500 members and prospects for the future growing brighter.

We, then, as a Division, are desirous of showing to our Order that we are not unmindful of the services of this brother. Therefore, on behalf of the Maine Division, I have alike the privilege and the pleasure to present to you this portrait. May you give it a conspicuous place on the walls of the National Headquarters, and as time goes on and we as associates of our honored brother shall look upon this portrait may we ever feel that our gaze is fixed upon one who has done his duty and has received the "well done, good and faithful servant," of his brothers and co-workers.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I know of no one present to-day in the City of Indianapolis who is better able, or who will more willingly, on our behalf, accept the gift we have just received than that old tried and trusted Son of a Veteran who served with General Merrill and wore the same drooping visor as he marched into Independence Hall—Joe Maccabe.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, frankly, I did not know that I was to be drafted to respond and to accept this portrait of my old friend, and I am at loss to say anything that would be fitting. As Brother Soule said, Frank has done his duty and done it well. It was my pleasure to know him during the days of 1882 and 1883, and I can say here honestly—though I wish in better terms—that I never knew a harder worker on behalf of this organization, nor a more loyal fellow.

He took this organization in its infancy, when it was an infant so small that you could get it into a small grip, such as they are in the habit of carrying in prohibitory Maine. (Applause and laughter). You can readily imagine how cumbersome it was. The largest item in that famous gripsack was the indebtedness of this organization. (Laughter). It has its laughable aspect and it has its serious aspect. Brother Merrill then earned the title which some of us in New England saw fit to apply, after having come in contact with some of the western brothers. A title which is not euphonious and perhaps not eloquent, but it expresses the idea thoroughly and completely, namely, "Gimp." "Gimp" was simply borne to the ground because of the tremendous load; but, my friends, he was in no way deterred from starting out and making the battle uphill; and he did it well; he did it loyally; night and day; in sunshine and in storm he was at the helm, and his hand guided the organization in its dark days. The result to-day is manifest in New England. The corner-stone was well laid. As Sons of Veterans we closed up and marched to the front, and to-day the result of Frank P. Merrill's work is evident. I cannot say what I would like to say as to his work. It is evident to everybody that a more loyal fellow, a more

trustworthy Commander-in-Chief, a more patriotic custodian never was impressed into the service of the organization.

I take pride in accepting this counterfeit presentment, and I trust it will long remain in the gallery of Sons of Veterans' fame, for there it belongs. He was the leader in the dark day, and to-day he is willing to render service loyally and well, true to his flag, his country and our beloved Order. (Applause).

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL DODGE.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I have the honor of presenting General Dodge, Commander of the Indiana Division of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: General Dodge, we welcome you. Be seated.

RECESS UNTIL NINE O'CLOCK SATURDAY MORNING.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I move that this body do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

In the absence of Brother Bookwalter I wish, for the Executive Committee and Division, to extend a cordial invitation to attend the camp fire, at Tomlinson Hall, this evening. A program has been arranged that will be entertaining, I think, and we want to see every brother of the Encampment there.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, before seconding that motion I desire to move that when we resume to-morrow morning we resume under the regular order. The Chair will bear in mind that the regular order was suspended a few moments ago by consent.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that the regular order was suspended for the special matter of the presentation of the portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill. That matter having been disposed of the regular order is resumed as a matter of course.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I would ask the Commander if it is not possible for us to proceed with business for an hour longer?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The janitor of the hall in which we are meeting has made the request that we vacate as closely to six as possible.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE LADIES' AID.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, we were honored this morning by a visit from our sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society. I believe it would be proper to appoint a committee at this time—providing I am not on the committee—to return the compliment, so that the committee may have this evening and early to-morrow morning during in which to discharge that duty.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the Chair will appoint the same committee that was appointed to receive the ladies when they visited us this morning. The Chair hears no objection and that committee will act accordingly.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I would like to have consent to introduce the amendment that I desire to propose, that is, I would like to have it read now because it will probably create a great deal of discussion, and it will perhaps save time if it is read now so that members can be thinking of it until it comes up in the regular order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection Brother Bundy may read his proposed amendment.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I propose to move the following amendment, to be known as Section 2 of Article XX on page 75:

"SEC. 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits to be optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership shall never be omitted."

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I now second Brother Noel's motion that the Commandery-in-Chief take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary, the same sign. The motion is carried and the Encampment takes recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, September 11th, 1897.

Nine o'clock a. m.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I am.

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move that the calling of the roll be dispensed with.

M. D. FRIEDMAN, of Alabama: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the calling of the roll be dispensed with. As many as are in favor of the motion will signify their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried.

Adjutant-General, have you any communications?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following dispatch:

"BUFFALO, N. Y., September 10th, 1897.

Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis:

Greetings from Buffalo Camp. Hold next Encampment in Cincinnati.

JOHN L. CRONIN, Captain."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The receipt of the telegram will be noted. Is the Committee on Ritual ready to report?

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, the Committee on Ritual is ready to report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I imagine the committee has several resolutions there that have been referred to it, and that the report ends up with some general recommendation. If so, the Chair would suggest that the chairman read the various resolutions submitted to the committee by title, and then give us the general result. Is there any objection to that course? There appears to be none:

Brother Harry D. Sisson, chairman of the Committee on Ritual, submitted and read the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS: The Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies beg leave to submit their report as follows:

Your committee would not recommend slight and unimportant changes in the ritual, promulgated through General Orders, for the reason that such changes tend to confusion.

Your committee believes that the present ritual has proven far more satisfactory than the one it superseded, and yet believes the present is subject to many improvements, changes and corrections, which if made, would be of vast importance to the Order.

Your committee would call attention to the Adjutant-General's consolidated report, alluded to in the report of our Commander-in-Chief, and to the enormous loss of members that our Order has been subjected to; and it is the opinion of your committee that considerable of this great leakage is due to a lack of interest in Camp work by reason of shortcomings in the ritual, which, if corrected and revised, would tend greatly to lessen our losses by members being dropped from the Order. We believe that the present ritual is weak and lacks force, is devoid of that dramatic action which attracts and holds those who are most desirable members of our Order; that it is deficient in that it teaches the lessons, principles and objects of our Order without interesting the recruit in the lesson so taught.

Your committee is of the opinion that if the ritual was so changed and revised so as to possess dramatic action and force, interesting alike to the recruit and to the members of the Camps, a great step would be taken in holding our most desirable members and stopping the enormous leakage complained of by our Commander-in-Chief.

And your committee is of the opinion that our present ritual can be so changed, revised and improved so as to possess these important and essential points, and would recommend that a committee of three be appointed from this Commandery-in-Chief whose duty it will be to revise and improve our ritual so that it shall possess the dramatic action and force of which it is now devoid; and that said committee report at our next annual Encampment the result of their work, and that an appropriation be made to cover the expenses of a meeting of the committee at least once prior to holding the next Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report and recommendation of the committee. What is your pleasure?

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire: Commander, I move that the report be accepted and the recommendation of the committee adopted.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection we will adopt the same method of considering this report under which we have proceeded heretofore; that is, where there is no objection the recommendation of the committee will stand as adopted.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, is the committee going to read the resolutions submitted by the different Divisions?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Only by title.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, I understand the resolution that was put into the hands of the Resolution Committee relating to the ritual, from the Division of Wisconsin, has not been received. I would like to have the resolution passed upon.

CHARLES S. DAVIS, of Maryland: Commander, I would like to inquire if the committee has something to propose different from the recommendation by the Maryland Division.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: Commander, I think the matter referred to by the brother from Wisconsin is embraced in another resolution already in the hands of the committee.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, it seems to me that it is hardly fair to the Divisions to have these matters disposed of without allowing their resolutions to be read. I shall insist upon the resolution submitted by the Wisconsin Division being read.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They are simply to be read by title, but will be incorporated in the journal of proceedings. There seems to be no objection to that method of proceeding.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The recommendation of the Pennsylvania Division is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ADJUTANT.
MILTON, PA.

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, S. V., U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was adopted:

Your Committee on Ritual respectfully submit the following :

First. We recommend that the obligation now given in the degree of Loyalty, with the necessary corrections given in the degree of Friendship and the obligations now given in the degrees of Friendship and Charity, be dispensed with.

Second. We recommend that our delegates to the National Encampment be again instructed to use every effort to have one-degree ritual adopted. If this cannot be accomplished we suggest the present three (3) degree ritual to be revised and shortened. We further recommend that the present ritual, if retained, be so changed that the use of the coffin be omitted and the recruit be made to kneel.

(Signed), WILDUN SCOTT,
T. C. HARTER,
W. J. WALTON,
C. C. FULTON,
Ritual Committee.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest : ROBERT E. HOPKINS, Adjutant.

On which the committee report :

"Your committee recommend that this resolution be not concurred in, for the reason that it is impracticable to give a recruit one or two degrees embodying more or less secret work without obligating the recruit to secrecy."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: In the absence of any objection the action of the committee will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The resolution passed at the Annual Encampment of the New York Division, S. of V., U. S. A., held in Auburn, June 22-24, 1897, is as follows :

"The Committee on Ritual respectfully reports that in its opinion uniform exemplification of the degree work is desirable, and that the same can be best secured by the issuance by the Commander-in-Chief of a series of charts, or some descriptive plan, for use of officers concerned in working the degrees, showing the positions or methods of procedure of officers and members at principal points of the degrees ; and furthermore recommends that on page 38 of the ritual, in exemplification of the secret work, the following corrections be made : 'When the Sergeant of the Guard approaches you will give him the hailing sign,' should read, 'he will give you the hailing sign.' Again, 'He will reply,' should read, 'you will reply.'

"These changes are recommended to accord with the direction that the challenger must always make the advance and keep it, the challenged party being on the defensive."

Your committee report "ought to pass" on above recommendation.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? There appears to be none. The recommendation will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The recommendation from Admiral Porter Camp, No. 47, Division of Missouri, is as follows :

ST. LOUIS, May 12th, 1897.

"Resolved, That the salute of the flag be the same as prescribed in the ritual on page 93, as follows : That (Inspector) Sergeant of the Guard advances to the altar with the U. S. flag, each brother raising his cap and placing it on left shoulder, replacing it when commanding officer gives the command recover. The (Inspector) Sergeant of the Guard returns to his station with the flag."

Your committee report on the above inexpedient at this time, unless a general revision of the ritual is ordered.

The committee received further recommendations from the Division of Missouri in annual Encampment, at Warrensburg, May 13th and 14th, 1897, as follows :

"Recommendation No. 1. That the representatives of this Division to the Sixteenth National Encampment be instructed to use all honorable means to secure a ritual having the long and short forms printed in full, same to be included in the same ritual.

"*Recommendation No. 2.* That the delegates to the Sixteenth National Encampment present a resolution to adopt a program for Union Defenders' Day Service in ritual form similar to the special Memorial Services, etc., now in our ritual; same to be made for use in all Camps in our Order for that purpose.

"*Recommendation No. 3.* That the ritual be so arranged as to include the sounding of taps for three (3) meetings after death of a brother; also to include the last call or taps in the Burial Services."

Your committee report on these recommendations, "Inexpedient at this time unless a general revision of the ritual is ordered."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There does not appear to be any objection. The recommendation will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The resolution from the Division of Massachusetts is as follows:

"Inasmuch as no instruction is given recruits in any degree in regard to assuming the hailing sign at the close of Camp meeting; be it

"*Resolved*, That the delegates from this Division to the National Encampment be instructed to vote for the abolition of the sign during the closing exercises."

Your committee report inexpedient at present time unless a general revision of ritual is ordered.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? There appears to be none. The recommendation of the committee will stand as the action of the house. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The resolutions submitted by the Maryland Division are as follows:

"WHEREAS, The present three-degree ritual of the Sons of Veterans has not proven satisfactory, as the Camps are not using same through lack of proper facilities; and

"WHEREAS, The present ritual is not as satisfactory as the one it superseded, and does not, in the opinion of the Maryland Division, present a proper muster ceremony; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That this Division's representatives be instructed to use their influence to have the ritual abolished and the former one substituted, with such other improvements as the Commandery-in-Chief see fit."

The report of the Committee on Ritual on foregoing resolution is as follows:

"Your Committee on Ritual has the honor to submit the approved resolution herewith, returned as the report of said committee, and urge that the representatives of this Division make a plea from the floor of the National Encampment for the same."

Which report was adopted.

In the same line the following section from the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports is quoted, viz.:

"*Fifth.* Your committee is of the opinion that our delegation should go to the National Encampment instructed to announce that it is the sense of this Encampment that the three-degree ritual be abolished and recommend return to the old ritual, modified and improved upon, or that a shorter ritual than the present one be adopted."

Your committee report on the resolutions introduced by the Maryland Division that so far as said resolutions pertain to the ritual suggesting a return to the old ritual, "ought not to pass."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Sisson concluded the reading of the report as follows:

Your committee would recommend to the proposed Ritual Committee, for its consideration should it be appointed, the following recommendation received from the Massachusetts Division:

"That our representatives to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief be instructed to use their utmost endeavors to accomplish a revision of at least the short forms of our present ritual, so that, at the discretion of the Camp, the degrees may all be worked, or the recruit may be admitted to full membership in one evening upon taking a proper

obligation and receiving suitable lectures explanatory of our principles and objects. To be more explicit, I would advise the abolition of the short form of the degree of Loyalty, and the creation of a single degree, embodying the general lecture parts and obligations of the present three degrees in a condensed form, in order that Camps, not possessing the paraphernalia of the three-degree system can, at their discretion, admit a recruit to full membership at one meeting."

Committee recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

HORACE C. STILWELL,
GEO. F. WOLZ,
WALTER S. WILLEY,
H. D. SISSON,

Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Ritual. The Chair understands that the committee also has a further or supplemental report.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: Commander, the committee begs leave to submit the following supplementary report:

"We would recommend the omission of the ballot as at present required for a recruit for the degrees of Charity and Loyalty, believing that one ballot upon an application should carry with it an election to all degrees."

GEO. F. WOLZ,
WALTER S. WILLEY,
H. D. SISSON,

Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report and the supplementary report of the Committee on Ritual. What is the pleasure of the Encampment?

E. E. BEARD, of Kansas: Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the report and the supplementary report of the Committee on Ritual be received and adopted. Those in favor of the motion will signify their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. Is the Committee on Officers' Reports ready to report?

FRANK P. MERRILL, of Maine: Commander, the Committee on Officers' Reports have attended to their duties and are ready to report; Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott has kindly consented to read the report.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, Brother Bundy has sprung a question upon us that relates to the ritual, and I think we had better thrash that out before taking up our report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the Encampment will consider the amendment to the Constitution offered by Brother Bundy yesterday evening. The Chair will recognize Brother Bundy.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I desire to move the following amendment, to be known as Section 2 of Article XX, on page 75 of the C., R. and R.:

"Section 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps, but the obligation of membership shall never be omitted."

That is to Article XX, on page 77, of some of the Constitutions.

W. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the amendment to the Constitution moved by Brother Bundy, to amend Article XX, on page 77, by the introduction of the new section proposed by him, making

the use of the ritual optional with Camps. Is there to be any debate? (Cries of "question," "question").

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I do not want to retard business, but I would like to ask General Bundy if he intends that the use of the ritual on every occasion shall be optional.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, not at all. I can state very briefly what my views in regard to the matter are. We have different kinds of Camps in this organization. We desire to build up the Order. The matter of the observance of the ritualistic ceremonies is not important in any particular unless it enables us to build up the organization. There are Camps in the organization, and I venture the assertion that nine-tenths of the Camps in this Order, as they exist and report to their Division Commanders at the present time, absolutely butcher the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits. This amendment does not advocate nor provide for the abolition of the ritualistic ceremonies, nor the abolition of the ritual. It simply makes it optional with every Camp in the Order, when they get together, whether they will use the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits as required at the present time. One trouble, as I take it, with the growth of this Order, has been that we have been undertaking all the time to compel people to do things that they could not do and that they did not want to do. Many of us have had the idea that we must be strict disciplinarians, and for some years I was upon that lay myself—I have been on both sides of the question, I have belonged to both kinds of Camps, or, rather, my Camp has been at one time a military Camp and now it is not a military Camp; we have all kinds of paraphernalia and everything necessary, and everybody in it possesses a uniform, and I believe the boys should possess uniforms, so far as possible and practical; but when we muster a recruit into the organization, the manner in which a great many of the uniforms are worn, and the manner in which they attempt to go through these ceremonies in nine-tenths of the Camps, is such, in my belief, that the recruit goes away with a very bad impression of the organization. We may frankly admit that it is not done properly. In many Camps they either cannot do it or they will not. Now I ask brothers to look at this question fairly, not from the standpoint of their individual Camps, but consider it as it applies to the Order generally. Those who have been Division Commanders know how it is. Although he may belong to a Camp that desires the ritual work and goes through it properly, how about the neighboring Camps? It creates a good impression upon the candidate in the Camps where the ritualistic ceremonies are properly conducted, but how is it in the other Camps? We all know that the impression made is anything but favorable. It seems to me we ought to meet conditions everywhere. There is not anything in this amendment proposed that will prevent any Camp in the organization from going through the ritualistic work that desires to do so, that considers it for the best interest for the organization in that community. It simply permits the Camps that cannot do it properly to omit it.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I do not know where this amendment reaches. I want to ask if it can be so construed as to permit the Camps to do away with ritualistic work in the opening and closing of the Camp?

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, not at all; it says the use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps, and then the Committee on Ritual should provide for one obligation.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander—

(Cries of "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question seems to be the desire of this Encampment. All those in favor of the adoption of the proposed amendment will so signify by the usual sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried. Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report?

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORTS.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Commander, on behalf of the Committee on Officers' Reports I would say that the committee has omitted the usual complimentary reference to the officers of Commandery-in-Chief, but the committee wish it understood, and would preface their report with the statement, that in their opinion the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief have been faithful and capable and have done their work conscientiously and well, and the committee desire that all the good things that might be said of worthy officers may be considered as said. I am instructed to say that as the unanimous opinion of this committee. While it is brief I think it covers the ground thoroughly.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Before Gen. Abbott proceeds with the report the Chair would ask the pleasure of the Encampment as to the manner in which the report shall be considered; whether it shall be taken up section by section and considered that way, or whether it shall be considered as a whole? If there is no objection the method pursued in the consideration of the preceding reports will be pursued in this instance. There appears to be no objection and the report will be considered section by section.

General Abbott proceeded to read the report as follows :

To the Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, S. V., U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Your committee have duly considered all matters submitted to them, referring to the several committees the matters properly belonging to said committees, and taking such action on other matters as the evidence before us and our best judgment dictated and we beg leave to report as follows :

Communication from the Division of Indiana relative to changes in C., R. and R., referred to Committee on C., R. and R.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"Communication from the Division of Missouri asking for changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual, and that part of said communication relating to Division Council referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"Communication from Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, of California, relating to ratio of representation, etc., referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"Communication from the Division of Massachusetts relating to changes in C., R. and R. as to jurisdiction referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. General Abbott will proceed.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"Communication from the Division of Pennsylvania relating to restoration of past honors to Past Division Commander Robert E. Hopkins, of Camp No. 121. Inasmuch as no data has been given your committee as to how Past Commander Hopkins lost his honors, we are unable to make any recommendation in the case.

"That part of said communication relating to changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual."

Commander, that leaves the matter of Brother Hopkins in the hands of this Commandery-in-Chief. The recommendation by the Pennsylvania Division is as follows :

RESTORATION PAST RANK TO R. E. HOPKINS.

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF ADJUTANT.

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was recommended :

MILTON, PA., June 3, 1897.

William D. Orr, Adjutant Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Towanda, Pa. :

In recognition of the years' of loyal work for our Camp and Division, we earnestly request the delegates to the Commandery-in-Chief be instructed to work and vote for the restoration of the honors of Past Division Commander Robert E. Hopkins, of Camp No. 121.

(Signed) FRED A. GODCHARLES, Captain,
 WILDUN SCOTT,
 HARRY W. WILSON,
 EDWARD K. BARMAN,
 E. E. HUNTSINGER,
 A. S. RHOADS,
 GEORGE D. B. HEDENBERG,
 FRANK RHOADS,
 WILLIAM L. BEATTY.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest : FRED A. GODCHARLES, Sergeant-Major.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the desire of the Commandery-in-Chief on the question of the restoration of past honors to Brother Hopkins, of the Pennsylvania Division ?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the petition of the Pennsylvania Division, praying for the restoration of past rank to Brother Robert E. Hopkins, now Adjutant of Pennsylvania Division, be granted.

WILDUN SCOTT, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the petition of the Division of Pennsylvania, restoring past rank to Brother Robert E. Hopkins, former Past Commander of the Division, be granted. Any remarks ?

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I simply remember that yesterday my Brother Reed served very acceptably as reading clerk for the Committee on Resolutions, and one of the resolutions recommended by that committee was that dropped members should not be made eligible to again receive past honors. It strikes me the line of demarkation between tweedledum and tweedledee is being defined. I think it no more than fair that Brother Hopkins' case should go the way of all others unless there may be, perhaps, some extenuating circumstances, and in that case we probably ought to know them. If Brother Hopkins is to be granted this right and this privilege then why not grant it to everybody ? The spirit of equity is not dead here yet. We certainly must remember that if we give it to one we must give it to all. In short, we cannot afford to make fish of one and flesh of another and red herring of a third.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER: Commander-in-Chief, the case of Brother Hopkins is simply this—I will make it very brief—Brother Hopkins removed from Milton, his home, and the location of his Camp. The Camp was indebted to Brother Hopkins to an amount somewhere between eighty and a hundred dollars. Brother Hopkins labored under the impression that some brother of the Camp was taking care of him to the extent of crediting his dues out of the Camp's indebtedness to him, and when it was discovered that that had not been done and that he was dropped from the Order for non-payment of dues, he was reinstated, and it is the unanimous request of the Pennsylvania Division that he be reinstated to his past rank. That is all there is in it.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, in reply to Brother Maccabe, on behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, I want to say that the committee is consistent in relation to the other brothers. That the committee reported adversely upon those cases because no data was presented to the committee, and no reasons given to the committee which would have justified them in reporting otherwise. No reasons were given why the past rank should be restored in those cases.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Just one question. Commander. Is it not the fact that the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions yesterday pronounced against restoring the past rank to dropped members who were reinstated?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: I answer that, Commander, by saying yes, but qualify it in this way: No data was presented to the committee upon which they could recommend the restoration of past rank in the cases it had before it. There is quite a difference between those cases and this case, and it is not the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. The committee reported against the restoration of past rank to those who had petitioned this Commandery-in-Chief for it, but had presented no reasons why the restoration should be granted. In fact some of those cases the brothers had voluntarily withdrawn from the Order, and the committee could not understand how in justice their past rank could be restored to them. As the Adjutant-General has said, the case of Brother Hopkins is entirely different. Brother Hopkins was a member of Camp No. 121; he was one of the old members of the Pennsylvania Division, an earnest worker, and the Camp was indebted to Brother Hopkins eighty dollars. He removed from Milton, Pennsylvania, with the understanding among the members that this money that was due him would be accredited to his dues. In the meantime the Camp surrendered its charter. Brother Hopkins was not present and not cognizant of the action taken by the Camp. He found himself a dropped member, notwithstanding the Camp was indebted to him eighty dollars, which Brother Hopkins was willing should be applied to the payment of his dues. He became a dropped member through no fault of his own, through no negligence of his whatever, and his case is entirely different from the others. No analogy can be drawn between the case of Brother Hopkins and those reported on by the Committee on Resolutions. I want to say right here that the record of the members of the Committee on Resolutions for the past fourteen or fifteen years has always been to favor the restoration of past rank to members where there was good reason for doing it; and if ever there was a case in which there was good reason for restoring past rank it is Brother Hopkins' case. He had given the Camp eighty dollars in money and said to them to credit him with his dues and charge it against that debt. Instead of doing so the Camp surrendered their charter and reported Brother Hopkins in arrears for dues.

G. B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I do not wish to speak as a member of this committee, but as an individual. This has always seemed to me an important thing, and I shall propose an amendment at the end of my remarks. It is within the memory of my brothers that at Cincinnati I begged the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations to report a law to provide for just such cases.

I was living at that time in a foreign country and my case was harder than Brother Hopkins', as the members of my Division will verify. Not only was my Camp indebted to me, but my dues had been paid in advance for twenty years. I got into the interior of Central America and the only communication from the Camp or Division that ever reached me were solicitations for contributions for the badge of the Commander-in-Chief. Some way or other they could always find me, but nothing else could. However, that has nothing to do with the case. My dues were honestly paid in advance, but had it not been for the watchfulness of the Colonel of the Division, my particular friend, Col. Shepard, I would be to-day in the same situation that Brother Hopkins is. The Camp was owing me, I will not say how much—it was a Camp that was named after me, and if any of my brothers have ever been honored in that way they know something about how much it costs—but it is not right that some two or three brothers should get reinstated, should have their past honors restored and others, whose

cases are just as meritorious, be turned down. Every Division has its past dropped Colonel. Illinois has a few. They would be glad to come back in the Order and have their past honors restored. Perhaps there may be a shade of difference in the circumstances, but the same rule should be applied to all.

Now I move that we pass some law governing this thing, covering these cases, so that hereafter there may be some uniformity of action. It is not fair that one Division have this thing and another not. I believe with my friend Maccabe that we should not make fish, fowl, flesh and good red herring of these applicants. I move as a substitute that Past Division Commanders, who have been dropped for lapsed dues, when they become members of the Order again shall be granted all their past honors.

L. A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, yesterday I asked to have past honors restored to an Iowa Division Commander, and it was decided that we were not in proper shape, and we took our medicine. Let Pennsylvania do the same. Let them endorse Brother Hopkins as a Past Commander in their Division Encampment and let them present him under the seal of their Division Encampment to the next Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That has already been done.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander—

(Cries of "question," "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is called for.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, my point of order is that there is a prescribed method within the Constitution, Rules and Regulations for calling for the question. Members cannot be shut off simply by cries of "question."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The point of order is well taken.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I simply want to say a few words upon this case. The brothers here present will recollect that I opposed the admission of a worthy brother to a seat in this Encampment, contending that his past rank had been forfeited. This Encampment by a large majority vote saw fit to decide otherwise. I, like my Brother Maccabe, do not want to make any distinction between Divisions, and in view of the fact that this body in one case did recognize the past rank of one brother, let us not stultify ourselves and refuse this past rank to another brother who is equally worthy.

(Cries of "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on concurring in the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports restoring past honors to Brother Hopkins of the Pennsylvania Division. Brother Abbott's substitute motion was not seconded. Those in favor of concurring in the recommendation of the committee will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the report of the committee is concurred in. Proceed, Brother Abbott.

GENERAL ABBOTT: Commander, while we are on this question there is another one from Pennsylvania of the same kind and character relating to Brother Shuler. I will read the communication, which is a certified extract from the minutes of the Pennsylvania Encampment, with the permission of the Commandery. It is as follows:

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was recommended:

Adjutant-General Hammer moved that the delegates to the National Encampment at Indianapolis be instructed to endeavor to secure the restoration of the eligibility of W. H. Shuler, of Camp No. 44. So ordered.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest: ROBERT E. HOPKINS, Adjutant.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to the Encampment that this case is both similar and dissimilar to the one we have just been considering. Mr. Shuler was a member of the organization, was court-martialed on some charge and dishonorably discharged from the Camp at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Since that time he and the Camp have settled their differences. Their differences are past, and the Camp unanimously recommended to two different Encampments of the Division of Pennsylvania that he be restored to membership, or, rather, that we remove his disability. The Pennsylvania Encampment, in view of the fact that the Camp makes a unanimous request, certifying that the brother has made full atonement, decided in favor of granting the request of the Williamsport Camp, and the Division come here and unanimously ask that his disability be removed. It simply permits him again to make application for membership. It does not restore him to membership. It simply removes his disability and makes him eligible. Is their objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent is granted. There is no objection.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Division of Maryland recommending changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from the Division of Pennsylvania relating to restoration of eligibility of W. H. Shuler. We have no data in this case, therefore can take no action."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That you have already passed upon.

"Resolutions from Division of New York relating to degree work referred to Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolution from Division of New York relating to removing disability of Claud D. Morehouse. Your committee recommend that the disability be removed."

Commander, to explain the action of the committee I will state that Brother Durston appeared before the committee and presented the case, supported by a resolution passed by the New York Division. We, therefore, recommend it, as we have some data to go upon.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent seems to be granted. It is granted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolutions from the New York Division relating to uniform referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

DeLESTRY—MINNESOTA DIVISION APPEAL.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Louis DeLestry, of St. Paul, submitting a copy of part of Journal of Proceedings of Division of Minnesota, and appealing from the action of said Division Encampment, which refused the said DeLestry a vote in said Encampment, which he claimed by virtue of his being a delegate to the preceding National Encampment."

"We recommend that the appeal be not sustained."

The documents which the committee had before it in reference to this case are as follows:

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 25, 1897.

General J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I enclose you herewith the transcript of minutes of the Thirteenth Annual Division Encampment, Minnesota Division, held at Princeton, so far as it may relate to an appeal I am herewith taking from the vote of that session.

I presented myself at that session as a member thereof, having been elected at the Twelfth Annual Encampment of the Division as a delegate to the National Encampment, and upon that election asked to be given a seat and vote in the Thirteenth Annual Division Encampment. Division Commander Kelley ruled that I was entitled to such seat and vote, but on appeal from that ruling the Encampment voted not to allow me a vote and, therefore, I withdrew from the Encampment after having given notice that I should appeal to the Commander-in-Chief for a ruling upon the question.

The enclosed papers are duly certified by both the Division Commander and Adjutant and are from the stenographic report. I, therefore, appeal from the vote taken which unseated me, and ask you to make a ruling and decision for future guidance upon the subject upon the question :

"Is a delegate elected by the Division Encampment to represent his Division in the National Encampment a member of the next session to which he is supposed to report, and, if so, is he not entitled to a voice and vote in such Division Encampment?"

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,

LOUIS DELESTRY.

Transcript of that portion of the minutes of the proceedings of the Thirteenth Division Encampment of the Minnesota Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., relating to the appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief, taken by Louis DeLestry, of Camp No. 1, St. Paul, Minn.

PRINCETON, MINN., June 17th, 1897.

We hereby certify that the within is a correct transcript of the minutes of the Thirteenth Division Encampment, Minnesota Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at Princeton, Minnesota, June 17th, 1897, as they refer to the appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief taken at that session by Louis DeLestry, of Camp No. 1, St. Paul, Minnesota.

GEORGE P. KELLEY, Commander.

GEORGE H. SHEIRE, Adjutant.

MR. DELESTRY: I again, at this time, desire to make formal application for and ask that I be given a seat and a vote at this Encampment, claiming to be properly entitled to the same by virtue of being a duly and legally elected delegate of this Division to the Commandery-in-Chief for the present year, and I base my claim on Section 1, of Article II, of the Division Constitution, which is as follows:

The membership of the Division Encampment shall be made up as follows:

First. Its own elective and appointive officers (except Assistant Inspectors and non-commissioned staff) and its sitting Camp Captains.

Now I ask to be heard in this matter, particularly that a definite ruling may be had upon a question which has never been decided heretofore. We have searched the Constitution, By-Laws and Blue Books, but find no ruling on this point, and, therefore—

DELEGATE MILLS: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

COMMANDER KELLEY: You will state what it is.

DELEGATE MILLS: I would like to know what authority Brother DeLestry has to take up the time of this Encampment with this matter.

COMMANDER KELLEY: The brother is asking for his seat. He claims to be a duly elected officer of this Encampment. I think Brother DeLestry has a perfect right to be heard in the matter.

MR. DELESTRY: Now it is not merely a question whether or not I have a vote in this Encampment, but one which should be and must be decided for future Encampments, and I now formally ask that I be given a seat and a vote in this Encampment, under the provisions of Section 1, Article II, of the Division Constitution, which states that "The membership of the Division Encampment shall be made up as follows: *First.* Its own elective and appointive officers (except Assistant Inspector and non-commissioned staff) and its sitting Camp Captains," etc.

I maintain and contend the point that a delegate, elected by the Division Encampment to represent it in the supreme body of the Order, is a duly elected officer of such Encampment, and as such is entitled to his seat and

to his vote therein. If he is not such an elective officer, then what is he? If he is anything at all, he is certainly an elected officer of the Encampment, and at least entitled to a vote therein.

COMMANDER KELLEY: There seems to be a question for considerable argument here, and I really do not know exactly how to pass on it. It seems to me that the brother is entitled to a seat in this Encampment, and we must certainly give him a chance to be heard.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: He was heard yesterday in this Encampment, and we have enough other business to do. Have him cut it short.

MR. DELESTRY: I am going to cut it short, if the people will give me a chance. Now, I maintain this point, and will ask the Commander to rule upon it, for the purpose that it may be definitely decided upon, and that I may take such an appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief as may be proper, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. I was, by the Division Encampment at Wells, elected as delegate of this Division to the Commandery-in-Chief, and under the Article and Section of the Constitution quoted, am a member of this Encampment, and one of the elective officers, and, therefore, entitled to a vote. I again formally ask that I be given a seat and a vote in this Encampment.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: Whoever heard of a delegate to the National Convention being considered as officer of the Division? And if he was an officer, why didn't he present a report.

MR. DELESTRY: I gave my report to the Adjutant yesterday morning, at the time the officers' reports were called for, and it was not read, but handed back to me.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I am not reading reports when the officers are present to read them themselves.

MR. DELESTRY: I would like to know how I could have read the report when it was not regularly called for; when no opportunity was given me to do so.

PAST COLONEL MILHAM: Commander, how could Brother DeLestry make a report to the Commandery-in-Chief when he was not present at the meeting of that body?

MR. DELESTRY: In the same manner that other officers of the Division make reports of matters of which they have no personal knowledge.

DELEGATE MILLS: Commander, I move the gentleman be not entitled to a vote in this Encampment.

DELEGATE DETURK: Commander, I second the motion.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: That is out of order. It is not a question for the house, but rests with the Commander.

COMMANDER KELLEY: The question being one for the Chair to decide, and not for the convention itself, it seems to me to be a question as to whether or not Brother DeLestry is to be considered as officer of the Division as delegate to the Commandery-in-Chief. If he is actually an officer of this Encampment, he certainly should be entitled to a seat. I do not find any law touching the point materially. It is true he bases his claim upon Section 1, Article II, of the Division Constitution.

DELEGATE MILLS: Commander, when does his term expire?

COMMANDER KELLEY: As I understand it, his term has not yet expired, and will not until the adjournment of this Encampment. That being the case, and he has never resigned, his time has not yet expired. On the other hand, he has never made a report. Should he have made a report, I should have had to rule that he was a member of this Encampment.

MR. DELESTRY: I have been patiently waiting to be asked for the report.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I appeal from the decision of the Chair; that is, I understand that the Commander has ruled that the brother be given a vote.

COMMANDER KELLEY: I have not yet so decided it, but in order to bring this matter before the Encampment, I will rule that Brother DeLes-

try, by virtue of his election as delegate to the Commandery-in-Chief, is entitled to a vote here, and I call upon him for his report, if he has a report to make.

MR. DELESTRY: I have not the report here; I did not bring it along this morning. It was here yesterday.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I appeal from the decision of the Chair.

PAST COLONEL MILHAM: I second the appeal.

COMMANDER KELLEY: The Adjutant has taken an appeal from the ruling of the Chair. I must say that the question is rather too deep for me, and I ruled as I did in order that it might be settled by the Encampment itself, and so let me out. The proper mode, I think, of putting the matter is, "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?"

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: The Senior Vice Commander will conduct the voting. A rising vote should be taken, and the Sergeant-Major will count.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, the question before you is, "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?" Those voting in the affirmative will rise to their feet.

THE SERGEANT-MAJOR: Five.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Be seated. Those voting in the negative, rise to their feet.

THE SERGEANT-MAJOR: Thirty-one.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The question is lost.

MR. DELESTRY: I hereby give formal notice and ask permission to take an appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief from the decision of this Encampment.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: That is perfectly proper and in order that the brother gives notice of appeal.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection to this recommendation of the committee? If not, the report is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Brother William L. Fees, of Elwood, Indiana, asking for reinstatement to membership and restoration of past rank of Captain. We recommend the granting of his request as it appears an injustice has been done him."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). There is no objection and the report of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

FREMONT TIETZE—NEW JERSEY DIVISION APPEAL.

"In the matter of petition of Fremont Tietze for reinstatement to membership and restoration of past honors, your committee beg to report that new evidence, secured since General Rake made his decision, has been presented to your committee. Said evidence being no less than the honorable discharge of his father and a letter from Hon. Nelson A. Miles, of the U. S. Army, that this applicant's father served in the Union Army under his command. This fact being established beyond question, we recommend that said Fremont Tietze be reinstated and restored to past honors.

Your committee have duly considered the report of the Commander-in-Chief and recommend as follows:

Under head of Decisions, last paragraph (fearing that a wrong impression may obtain), your committee are of the opinion that *all* questions or decisions should be sent *direct* to the commanding officer, and he may consult his Judge-Advocate or such other legal authority as he may deem proper.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kennedy, will you assume command?

The Senior Vice Commander-in Chief assumed command.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I had not expected that it would at any time be necessary for me to take the floor in this Encampment. I assure you it is entirely distasteful to me to do so.

But I cannot in justice to myself permit the action of the committee to go before you without an explanation and vigorous protest. The case of Fremont Tietze came up through the Past Commander of the New Jersey Division, Brother Adams. His eligibility was questioned and the papers in the case submitted. The committee's report would appear to say that they now have the honorable discharge of his father, and that it was not before me. That, however, is not the case. The discharge was before me, but it was not an honorable discharge from the United States. It was a discharge from the State of Pennsylvania. I informed Commander Adams that in my judgment the course to pursue was to endeavor to straighten out the eligibility of this candidate. He did so by furnishing Form 16, which was sent to the War Department and the return was made that the records at Washington showed that no such command as Bell's Unattached Independent Cavalry had been mustered into the service of the United States. Upon that the ruling was that he had been illegally mustered, and was not a member of this organization. That ruling was based upon an official circular issued on September 1st, 1888, by myself when in command of the Pennsylvania Division, and was a copy from the data furnished directly from the office of the Adjutant-General of the State of Pennsylvania.

I will briefly preface my remarks by saying that there is no State in the United States in which the military records, so far as they refer to the militia, are in such a tangle as in the State of Pennsylvania, for the reason that that State was the active seat of war at one time, and men who had not even been mustered into the service of the State of Pennsylvania, before even being mustered into the militia service, were pressed into the army and wounded and killed. The United States Government has, however, recognized them wherever a command served under a United States general officer, by virtue of a general order, and have granted, as a matter of fact, a United States discharge to such militia men. There are thousands of discharges in the State of Pennsylvania signed by Andrew G. Curtin as Governor of that State, and by a United States mustering-out officer, and you will find they are carried upon the rolls of the Government as honorably discharged from the service of the United States; but upon every one of those State discharges in the corner is the authority for mustering out from the United States. I do not pretend for a moment to say that Bell's Independent Unattached Cavalry, to which this applicant's father belonged, may not be found to be one of the regiments included in that category, if the proper investigation is made; but I do contend that the records of Pennsylvania say specifically, and I hold in my hand a letter of the Adjutant-General of that great State, which says they were mustered for State service only; and I know that the record from the United States Government says they were not under a United States general officer to entitle them to a discharge. That may be wrong, but so the record stands to-day, my brothers. I want to say to you right here that there is nothing in this case of a personal nature. It is not my purpose to keep brothers out of the organization. On the contrary, I want to get as many in as we can. I went on record as endeavoring to assist this candidate to establish his eligibility. Along in the early part of my administration this so-called decision was made, which is nothing more nor less than following the precedent of six or seven or eight decisions by Commanders-in-Chief Griffin, Maccabe and Bundy. That is their interpretation of the eligibility clause, and how this committee ever recognized the eligibility of the party in question without changing the eligibility clause of this Order, I cannot understand.

I have no objection to an appeal being taken from any decision I make. I am liable to error, and so is any one, and I recognize that fact; but permit me to call your attention to the fact that instead of an appeal, instead of sending to your Commander-in-Chief the additional evidence which they claim to have discovered—and I want to remark right here that there seems to be quite a discrepancy between the statement of General Miles and that of the Honorable Secretary of War, and I prefer in my case to believe the records until they are shown to be wrong—no appeal was taken from my decision, not a single word was said to let me know that there was anything objectionable in it, and this additional evidence, which I understand they had as long ago as April or May last, was never presented to me to modify my views. It is only right when your Commander-in-Chief makes a de-

cision that he should have the opportunity to review any additional testimony that may be secured, and to have the benefit of the opinion of his Judge Advocate-General upon it, and an opportunity to place before the committee reviewing his decision any data in refutation of the facts alleged that he may have; but I do not take any exception to that. If they establish the eligibility of this gentleman, I shall be the first to extend the hand of friendship and fellowship to him. I make no objection, but I say that they have come here, and when the order of business was reached where the reception and reference of communications from Camps and Divisions was asked for, they made no sign. I had no knowledge that the committee had this matter in hand. I expected they would on a question of privilege present it to this Encampment. I was led so to believe by conversations I had with members of that and other Divisions. Instead of that being done, I learned, after midnight this morning, that they had taken this action—without even saying to me, "Did you know that there was additional evidence?" I simply desire to go on record as saying that there is additional evidence on both sides of this question. I simply say to you that there is no honorable discharge from the United States. I do not want to contend that Bell's Unattached Cavalry may not be able to get relief. I have said to members of the New Jersey Division, the present Commander, and the Past Commander immediately retired, that I will assist them to clear up this record; but I warrant you if action is taken whereby you admit eligibility through certain regiments whose status is entirely different from that of others, who are not recognized by the G. A. R. in the Department of Pennsylvania, you will establish a precedent that will wreck your organization in that Division.

I guarantee that I can lay before any committee in reasonable time, if I am given the opportunity, data that will show conclusively the status of this particular organization. Without desiring to be understood that I have a single exception to take to any individual member of this committee, I take exception to the method in which this resolution came before the committee, in which it was acted upon, without an opportunity being given to present the other side of the question which is of vital interest, not to myself personally, but to the Division of Pennsylvania. (Applause).

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Senior Vice Commander, having some knowledge of the conditions of the records of Pennsylvania, I wish to state to Commander Rake, that there is no State in the Union in which the records of the late war are so garbled, so untrue, so unreliable, as in the State of Pennsylvania.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: I recognize that fact.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: There are a number of regiments which have on the State records duplicate numbers. Quite a number of them have the same number, one being in the United States service, and the other in the State service. There is no distinction made between them. I remember in my old regiment of Pennsylvania, for it was from that State that I served, that there were eighty men in the regiment who were reported upon the records of Pennsylvania as unaccounted for; and I know that with the exception of those that died and were left upon the field of battle, that those eighty men, every individual of them, were mustered out of the United States service at Washington, and returned to their homes at the close of the war. I feel that in dealing with Pennsylvania and its record when it comes, to a question of eligibility of Sons of Veterans, we cannot hold to the usual rule adopted by this Order. These cases must be made special cases. I know that there were many men in Pennsylvania who served honorably in the United States service during the war, concerning whose record there is not one scratch of pen at the State House at Harrisburg. It is an injustice to the soldiers of Pennsylvania that the State can never correct, and I hope that in dealing with the cases we will not pay too close attention to the records of the State of Pennsylvania, for they are worthless.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: That does not prevail in the Adjutant-General's Office at Washington, though.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: The Adjutant-General's Office at Washington is the reflection of the records at Harrisburg.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, representing the committee that has presented this recommendation, I desire to explain briefly the position of the committee, and in the first place I desire to ask Past Commander Adams, or at least some member of the New Jersey Division, if this petition for reinstatement was not presented to the Commandery under the head of Communications from Divisions? That was the understanding of the committee, and if the brother who did so present it is in the room, I desire him to speak at this time.

W. L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Senior Vice Commander, when communications from Divisions were asked for, I stated that the New Jersey Division had a communication which it desired to present to this committee, and was granted permission to pass it to the committee by the Commander-in-Chief.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, that is the understanding the committee had; that is the way this matter reached the committee. Now, while it grieves me to differ from the Commander-in-Chief in his presentation of this matter, I am just as conscientiously sure of my position as he can be of his. It is not a question of what may result to the Pennsylvania Division. It is not a question of how the door of eligibility may be opened to other follows, but it is this case, and this case only, that we are called to pass upon. I agree with my Brother Orner that these cases from Pennsylvania, and similar cases—there are some from Ohio—must be passed upon individually and as they may arise in the progress of events.

Now taking up the decision of the Commander-in-Chief in this matter, I want to review the record briefly. General Rake's decision is as follows:

READING, PA., February 2, 1897.

Col. J. B. Adams, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Atlantic City, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Herewith I return to you Form 16, in the matter of service record of Emile Tietze, enlisted June 30th, 1863, in Capt. James M. Bell's Unattached Cavalry, Penna., and discharged therefrom August 9th, 1863. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. The formal discharge returned to you with correspondence bearing upon this case, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, would seem to conclusively confirm the above return from the War Department.

Article V, Chapter 1, C., R. and R., in defining our eligibility clause, is explicit in that it bases proof of service upon a United States discharge. This particular portion of our law has never yet, to my knowledge, been questioned. On the contrary, it is sustained by numerous decisions and opinions. See General Bundy's Decisions VI, VII and X, proceedings Fourteenth Encampment, in which he cites prior decisions and opinions.

While I feel the deepest regret for the party concerned, until he can conclusively show that his father holds a discharge from the service of the United States, I must hold that he has been illegally mustered into our Order, and, as a natural consequence, the muster is null and void.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Will General Russell permit me to make one remark—it may shorten up the debate—as to the suggestion of Dr. Orner, that the cases from Pennsylvania, in view of the condition of the records there, which we partially admit, should be considered specially. I want to say that the worthlessness of the records in Pennsylvania is largely in favor of the militia people who never served in the army, who, we are in most cases abundantly prepared to prove, never served in the army. If they desire to make special cases of such claims as come here we are perfectly ready and willing, and are willing to make a special case of Mr. Tietze, but we ask for the opportunity of presenting our views in the matter that his eligibility may be established beyond doubt, or the contrary established. The objection that we raise to-day on the floor of this Encampment is to the methods that have been pursued in bringing this

matter before the Encampment. Without discourtesy to the committee I desire to say it is entirely unfair to those who have the interest of the Pennsylvania Division at heart. We are ready to accept any action that will permit the case of Mr. Tietze to be examined without prejudice to him or to this organization, and to thrash it out to a conclusion, that it may stand as a test case in the State of Pennsylvania.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, in reply to General Rake I have only to say, so far as Brother Orner's remarks are concerned, that that may be necessary in every case. But that does not cut any figure in this case. This is the special case before this Encampment and must now be passed upon by it one way or the other. So far as this committee is concerned the Pennsylvania brothers had the same right to appear before the committee and present the evidence in their hands that the New Jersey Division had, and the same opportunity. It was the understanding of the committee, and it has been verified by the statement of the brother from New Jersey, that this communication came to the committee officially. All I know about it is that the chairman of the committee placed this resolution with others before the committee. We had no reason to believe that anybody was interested in it except those who appeared before the committee. If the brothers from Pennsylvania have let their day in court go by it is no fault of the committee. If they have any evidence in this matter let them present it here and now. They have a right to do it. This is the court of last resort. Let them introduce their evidence. I presume they have that right.

The eligibility clause of our Constitution reads thus:

"Section 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War of 1861-'65, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has ever borne arms against the Government of the United States of America."

Now, then, taking that up in the light of the decision you will readily see the difference. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. Let me say that the Constitution no where requires a muster into the service of the United States. The decision says, "From the return attached thereto, you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States." There is no contention in this matter that Emile Tietze's father was ever mustered into the service of the United States. The committee contends that such is not necessary. Article 5, Chapter I, C., R. and R., is explicit in that it requires proof of service and an honorable discharge. No where does the section refer to or require any such thing as a discharge from the United States Government.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Will the Past Commander-in-Chief permit an inquiry?

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: I would prefer the brother would wait until I get through. The Constitution says, "All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army." It does not say they must be honorably discharged from the United States Army. The United States Army is the regular army. The Union Army was the regular army and that great body of volunteers who went out to save the Nation's honor and the flag of the country.

"Or navy, during the Civil War of 1861-'65." The evidence before this committee shows that this man enlisted June 3d, 1863; that he was discharged August 9th, 1863; a short record, it is true, but it was at the time of that crisis when this nation's fate hung in the balance, just before the battle of Gettysburg. He was one of those who went forward and helped to turn the tide of battle at that time, and if the militia men of Pennsylvania had not so responded, the result of that battle might have been different, and if the result of that battle had been different, this nation might have been rent in twain. He was entitled to just as much credit, so far as our eligibility is concerned, as the man who served four years. "Who

served in the Union Army?" What record have we? You will remember that the battle of Gettysburg was fought on the second, third and fourth days of July, 1863. This man's service covers that period. We have his discharge from the Government, under the authority of the Government of Pennsylvania—

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio : Ohio is full of such discharges.

WILLIAM DESTESE, of Wisconsin : Wisconsin has two thousand such discharges.

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : The discharge is endorsed across the face, "Paid in full by Major George Taylor, Paymaster." I don't know whether he was paymaster of the Union Army or of the State of Pennsylvania. It don't make any difference.

I have here also a letter from General Miles bearing upon the actual service in which this man Tietze was engaged.

Now what have we? We have conclusive evidence showing that he enlisted in the service of the State of Pennsylvania prior to the battle of Gettysburg and that he was discharged from the service of the State by order of Andrew G. Curtin, having been paid in full for his service. We have the evidence, which is the very best, it seems to me, of an officer of the United States Army, who says that according to his recollection this command, to which this man was attached—and that is undisputed—was under his orders. We have the evidence of the Captain of that unattached cavalry, now Major Bell, that he did act under the orders of this officer of the United States Army at that time. Then, so far as that is concerned, the service is clearly, fully and conclusively shown to have been in the Union Army during the Civil War of 1861-'65. We have the discharge from Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, which is an honorable discharge, and no where does the eligibility clause require that it be an honorable discharge from the United States authorities. It is an honorable discharge as distinguished from a dishonorable discharge that is required. His record is clear, so far as his honorable service is concerned. That is the point. We do not want sons of dishonorably discharged soldiers. We want the sons of honorably discharged soldiers. Understand the distinction.

There is a decision on the question involved in this case and the ideas of the committee are fully in accord with it; and we want to read it. This is a case decided by General Webb, and will be found on page 17 of the proceedings of the Tenth Annual Encampment; and I want to say this, that General Webb, during his lifetime, in the practice of the law in Kansas, was recognized as one of the ablest lawyers in the State, where we have some pretty good lawyers—no personal reference, of course, because none of them are here (laughter). But I want to read this decision in full, and I hope you will bear with me while I do it, so you may see how this case has been considered.

THE McCRILLIS CASE.

Soon after my election I received a petition from Frank McCrillis, late member of Custer Camp, No. 6, Chicago, Ill., and a Past Colonel of that Division, for reinstatement. I made careful examination into the questions involved, and May 4th, 1891, General Orders No. 4, of that date, contained the following paragraph :

"IX. During the administration of General G. B. Abbott a question arose as to the eligibility of Colonel Frank McCrillis, of the Division of Illinois, and it was decided that Colonel McCrillis was not eligible to membership. He was a member of Camp No. 6, of Chicago. The matter was referred to the Judge Advocate-General, whose report is found on pages 111 and 112 of the proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Paterson, N. J. The question of Colonel McCrillis's eligibility was passed upon by General Griffin in his General Order No. 3, of date December 1, 1889, pages 51 and 52, journal proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, St. Joseph, Mo., and decided adversely to Colonel McCrillis. The Commander-in-Chief has received a petition of Colonel McCrillis for reinstatement in the Order.

"The decisions of Judge Advocate-General Appleget and Commander-in-Chief Griffin are based upon the fact that Colonel McCrillis's father was not mustered into the service of the United States, and that his discharge is

signed by the Adjutant-General of the State of Ohio. The petition for reinstatement is accompanied by the original discharge of Colonel McCrillis's father, and proof that the troops with which he served were under command of United States officers. The discharge is signed by the Adjutant-General of the State of Ohio and Major Malcom McDowell, of the United States Army, then serving upon the staff of General Lew Wallace. As a general rule troops mustered into the service of the State only are not eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic; but there is one exception to this rule, and that is, if such troops served in the Union Army under command of officers of the United States Army they are eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Article V, Chapter 1, of the Constitution, provides that 'sons.'

"It now reads male descendants. That is practically the only change.

"Not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War of 1861-'65, shall be eligible to membership.' The proof presented in support of the petition for reinstatement shows that Colonel McCrillis's father 'served in the Union Army during the Civil War,' and that the command in which he served was turned over by the Governor of Ohio to the Government of the United States, and were commanded by general officers of the Union Army. There were many regiments of State troops never mustered into the service of the United States, who 'served in the Union Army' at the battle of Gettysburg and other battles in the east, and during the raid of the rebel army under command of General Price through Missouri and the border of Kansas; many of these were killed, many more were wounded and many others lost their health in that service. All such troops are eligible to membership in, and many of them are members of the Grand Army of the Republic. I am of the opinion that such service comes within the provisions of the eligibility clause above referred to. I believe that those State troops who fought at Gettysburg, at the Battle of the Blue in Missouri, at Mine Creek in Kansas, and many other engagements, under the command of United States officers, '*served in the Union Army.*' I am of the opinion that Colonel McCrillis was and is eligible to membership in our Order. He is, therefore, reinstated to membership in Custer Camp, No. 6, and to all the past honors which he held at the time he was dropped from the rolls."

Now, could there be anything clearer? If the opinion had been written upon this case, could it have been any clearer? It is our case to a "T." It is absolutely the same thing; and it appears farther on in this decision that while Major Malcom McDowell, the paymaster, was a paymaster of the United States Army, the fact did not appear upon the discharge itself.

The decision continues:

"While I differed with Generals Griffin and Appleget in their construction of the law, I should not have reinstated McCrillis if I had before me only the facts presented to them, because their opinions had been approved by the Commandery-in-Chief. When the petition was presented to me it was accompanied by the original discharge of McCrillis's father."

In our case the discharge is endorsed, "Paid in full, by Major George Taylor, Paymaster."

"And the brief filed in support of his petition, and the other documents presented, cited official records in support of his claim of eligibility. I examined these records carefully, and I find that they contain all that is claimed for them. I also wrote the Secretary of War for information in regard to the military rank and status of Malcom McDowell, 'Major and A.-de-C.' I was informed by the Secretary that Major McDowell was an officer of the United States Army, and that he served in various capacities during the War of the Rebellion—a portion of the time on the staff of General Lew Wallace, as stated in said General Order. Subsequently, being advised that these troops were paid by the Government of the United States for their services, I wrote the Secretary of War again, and under date of May 19, 1891, the Adjutant of the United States Army informed me that Major McDowell, whose name appears upon the discharge of McCrillis's father, was a paymaster in the United States Army with the rank of Major."

We do not know whether this man Taylor was an officer in the United States Army or not. For my part I will presume he was not, or else he

would have so stated, but that cuts no figure in the views of the committee, because undoubtedly the service was performed in the Union Army. In the McCrillis case they didn't have a letter from the United States Army officer showing the service of the body to which McCrillis's father was attached. We have supplied that. To go on with the decision.

"This correspondence is transmitted with the record in this case. The questions passed upon are purely of a legal character, and were so decided by me. Whatever of sympathy I may have had, or still entertain, for McCrillis, is a matter outside of the record. The appeals of his counsel in that respect I fully appreciate, but none of these things had any bearing upon my decision in this case, and I leave them to those who may here represent McCrillis if this decision shall be contested."

It seems to me that this case is clearly in line with the McCrillis case, which is good law in this Order, and I think the Commandery should have no trouble in passing upon the matter with the evidence presented.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I simply rise to correct a few statements made by General Russell. To begin with, he makes it so perfectly clear to this Encampment that I may say it is as clear as mud. He cites the McCrillis case as absolutely similar. In the same breath he states the fact that in the McCrillis case the discharge is franked with the signature of the disbursing officer of the United States Army. This discharge bears the distinction of being purely a State discharge. There are thousands of discharges like this in the McCrillis case in existence. Wherever they bear the frank of the United States disbursing officer, the United States Government has made an exception of them and has given them a record as being in the United States service, or rather, in the Union Army. Our contention is that men who dreamt that possibly next week they might go into the war, were not in the army; that while he may have been in the State army, so long as he did not come into the service of the United States Government he was not in the Union Army. We might just as well claim that every militia man in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois was in the United States Army. When we speak of a United States discharge, we want it distinctly understood that we are speaking of a discharge from the service of the United States, from the Union Army. The war of the Rebellion was fought by the United States Government on the one side, and by the seceding states on the other. It was not fought by Pennsylvania on one side, and our militia were not in the Union Army until they were received into it, and the evidence of that is the muster out and discharge by the United States Government. I want to say further to you, that wherever there was a case on record, where it was proved that a militia man in Pennsylvania had been forced into the active service of the United States, under a United States officer, by authority, that the Government has recognized that service and made an exception of such case, and we should do the same way.

Now they say to us that we have lost the case by not appearing in court. I say to them, without reflecting upon the committee—but I do reflect upon the delegation from New Jersey—that the case went into court without our knowledge, and we do claim that it has been disrespectful and discourteous to your Commander-in-Chief to allow the New Jersey Division to hold this case off for the best part of a year, when they had the opportunity of appeal—I am frank and fair as Commander and they could have had justice, as justice has been given to every one during my administration—to allow the New Jersey Division to hold this case off for the best part of a year without availing themselves of their opportunity of appeal, and then bring it before this committee in this way.

General Russell makes a nice distinction about the Union Army. There is no one in this Encampment for whom I have a higher regard than General Russell. Let me call your attention to a decision of his in which he upsets his whole theory. It is found on page 49 of the Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment. It is Decision twenty-four, and is as follows:

"Decision No. 24. (J. A. Gen. Opinion No. 6). May 15, 1896.

Colonel H. D. Sisson, Commander Massachusetts Division, Pittsfield, Mass. :

DEAR COMMANDER:—In the matter of the application of J. H. Manning, I hand you Opinion No. 6 of Judge Advocate-General Oglesbee. I

have given this case a very careful consideration, and feel constrained to concur in the conclusion reached by General Oglesbee, that Mr. Manning is not eligible to membership in our Order.

Surgeon Manning went to the front with all a patriot's zeal, and while he rendered valuable aid and assistance to suffering Massachusetts soldiers during the few weeks he was at Alexandria and Washington."

Now this applicant's father got as far as Alexandria and Washington; he smelt powder. Reference has been made to the other applicant's father having probably been at the battle of Gettysburg. So far as the proof goes, he was a number of miles away.

Yet the evidence is undisputed that his proffered services were not accepted by the Government, and that he returned home without having been either mustered into the service of the United States or having served in any other capacity than as a civil surgeon.

My sympathy goes out strongly, in his effort to become a member of our Order, to the son of this loyal Massachusetts surgeon who was willing to give his invaluable services, yes, even his life, in behalf of his country, but under the law of our Order I can only hold him ineligible to such membership, much as I regret to be compelled to do so.

Yours very fraternally,

W. H. RUSSELL,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official: C. BORIN, Adjutant-General.

Now the point is right here, that by General Russell's own argument, he insists that the applicant's father should have been mustered into the United States Army; and just the minute it is shown that this applicant's father came any where near that condition, nobody will come before this Encampment advocating his admission quicker than I will.

The whole question at issue here is the snap judgment that has been taken in this case. It is before you not on its merits, but in a manner which gave no opportunity to disprove the assertions that have been made. The committee have examined only one side of the evidence. They are entirely conscientious in the matter, I will grant, but only one side of the case was presented to them. They are distinguished brothers of our Order, and I believe they have no notion other than to do justice in the case."

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Will the Commander-in-Chief kindly state, however, that the committee considered all the evidence that came before it.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: I want to say that I believe this committee conscientiously looked at the question placed before them. They claim no contrary evidence was presented, and that we admit. That is what we complain of. We want this Encampment to say that this eligibility shall be established before the applicant is admitted. We want the evidence on both sides to be heard. It will require correspondence; it cannot be obtained before this Encampment will adjourn. We simply ask you not to act on this report of the committee, but to take this case up after the evidence is all in.

GEORGE B. HOLMES, of Illinois: Senior Vice Commander, for the sake of the argument I will admit I know nothing about it—that this applicant's father was the best soldier in the Union Army, admit everything that the contestant claims, but it appears to me that this case was taken before this committee without the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief of this organization, without his knowing anything about it, without he or his witness being notified to appear before this committee; that the committee heard only one side. No appeal from his decision was taken. It is true he told them to take it before the committee, but that practically was a mere letter of information to the committee, notifying them that that was their privilege if they desired to do so. No regular appeal was taken; he was not consulted, and it seems to me that this question is not properly before the committee and that it is not properly before this supreme body of the organization.

I move you, therefore, that it is the sense of this Commandery-in-Chief that the committee has no jurisdiction in this case, that it is not legally and properly before this body, and the matter be referred to the next Commandery-in-Chief to hear the evidence and decide upon.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio : Senior Vice Commander, while I fully appreciate the importance of what my brother from Illinois has said, it seems to me we have facts before us which were not before the committee, and that there is very little for this Commandery to do except to sustain the decision of the Commander-in-Chief, because no regular appeal has been taken from his decision; and that need not deter the brother from prosecuting his appeal hereafter. I signed the general report with the information we then had at hand, but I desire now to offer the following dissenting minority report :

"While I agree with the majority report in the main, I respectfully dissent from the report as to the case of Fremont Tietze, and recommend that Decision number five of Commander-in-Chief Rake be sustained."

Now, Senior Vice Commander, I move the adoption of the minority report.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York : Senior Vice Commander, I second the motion.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I wish to state that my friend from Illinois is entirely mistaken in the statement he makes as to what was before the committee. He was not on the committee and does not know what was presented, therefore his resolution is not proper.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Senior Vice Commander, I move the previous question on the adoption of the minority report.

The motion was seconded.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The motion is out of order at this time.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I will state on behalf of the brothers of the New Jersey Division that they presented all the evidence, all the communications that have been presented by the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief has nothing further to present at this time; he has no evidence to present, only such evidence as was presented on his behalf. (Cries of "question," "question," "question").

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : Brothers, you have heard the call for the previous question. Those in favor—

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Senior Vice Commander, that is not the way to put the previous question.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The brother from New York will state his point of order.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : My point of order is that a brother cannot move the previous question until he gets the floor, or the floor has been yielded to him.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief did recognize me.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The Chair did not recognize Brother Archer. General Abbott had the floor. Continue, Brother Abbott.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I do not wish to take up the time of the Encampment, but I want to say that for justice all seasons summer, all places a temple; and this committee, individually and collectively, stand for justice. It is an injustice to keep this brother waiting a whole year. His claim is clearly made out. You have heard talk about the difficulties of this organization; the trouble it is having—it is this confounded red tape that prevents the rank and file from getting justice and getting to the front; that is what is the matter; there is too much form. These very brothers who are opposed to the military branch of the organization in every particular, they are very punctilious when it comes to a question of their individual prerogatives.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE : Senior Vice Commander, I object to personal allusions, and particularly when I am in a position to prove everything that I have stated.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: What is the will of the Encampment in regard to this proceeding?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move the previous question on the minority report submitted by Brother Bundy.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Senior Vice Commander, I second the motion.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, the previous question has been moved and seconded. The question is shall the main question now be put? Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes have it and it is so ordered. The question now is upon the adoption of the minority report. It is moved and seconded that the minority report be adopted and the decision of the Commander-in-Chief sustained. The Adjutant-General will read the minority report.

The Adjutant-General read the minority report as follows:

"While I agree with the majority report in the main I respectfully dissent from the report as to the case of Fremont Tietze, and recommend that Decision No. 5 of Commander-in-Chief Rake be sustained." Signed "William E. Bundy."

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: All in favor of the adoption of the minority report will signify it by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried. (Calls for "division," "division"). The question now recurs on the report of the committee with the minority report substituted as to the case of Fremont Tietze. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of the adoption of the report of the committee, as modified by the minority report, will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Senior Vice Commander, before that motion is put I would like to ask a question. I desire to understand, does the Chair rule that a division on the question of the adoption of the minority report is not allowable?

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The division was not called for until after the announcement of the result of the vote by the Chair, and, therefore, the call for division came too late.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: General Loebenstein will state his point of order.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, my point of order is that the Chair has no right to render a decision instantly, without giving an opportunity for a call for a division. The Chair has no right to say, "The motion seems to be carried; the motion is carried," all in one breath without giving an opportunity for a request for a division to be made and then rule that the call for a division comes too late, because it comes after the announcement of the decision of the Chair.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The question is on the adoption of the report of the committee as amended by the minority report in reference to the case of Fremont Tietze. Those in favor of the—

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I insist upon my point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: We are proceeding under the call for the previous question and debate is not in order. The question was put upon the adoption of the minority report of Brother Bundy and the minority report was adopted.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander—

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order. The previous question has been ordered and it cuts off debate.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I ask for a ruling on my point of order. My point of order was that the Chair had no right to render a decision without giving an opportunity to brothers to call for a division; that a call for a division was made as soon as it could be made, and a division should be ordered.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Bundy will state his point of order.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the Constitution provides how a call for a division should be made.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Chair holds General Loebenstein's point of order not well taken.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I respectfully appeal from the decision of the Chair.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, there were three Divisions called for a division on the question, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Speelman will state his point of order.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the question before the house is shall the minority report as substituted be adopted by the Encampment?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I have appealed from the decision of the Chair. I demand that my appeal be put to this Encampment. The commanding officer of this organization is not clothed with arbitrary power. The right of appeal exists upon the floor of this Encampment. I demand that my appeal shall be put to the Encampment. The Constitution provides that the commanding officer shall put an appeal from his decision.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Junior Vice Commander will put the question to the house on the appeal.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, an appeal has been taken from the decision of the Chair. As many as are in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair—

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Senior Vice-Commander, I would like Brother Loebenstein to state the ground for his appeal.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Junior Vice Commander, my appeal is from the decision of the Chair overruling the point of order raised by myself. My point of order was that the Chair arbitrarily, without giving an opportunity for any brother to call for a division, decided that the vote upon the minority report was in the affirmative and that the motion to adopt the minority report carried, and the record will show that it was done in one breath. I contend that the Chair should have given opportunity by making the statement that the motion seems to prevail, and should have hesitated long enough for protest or call for division to be made; and further that as a matter of fact the call for division was made by Past Commander Abbott, of Illinois, and seconded by brothers from two other Divisions as required by the Constitution. If the Chair did not see fit to recognize these brothers and to give them opportunity to go on record as being from certain Divisions the fault is not of the brothers. We want to do justice in this Encampment; we want to decide these questions upon their merits. We do not want any matter that comes up here for consideration in this Encampment to be railroaded through.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Junior Vice Commander I rise to a point of order.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Morgan will state his point of order.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, my point of order is that General Loebenstein is not debating the point of order.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER : Does the Chair desire to make a statement ?

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : Brothers, I think the record will show that I said "The motion appears to be carried; the motion is carried." That is the usual parliamentary form. I have nothing further to say.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER : Brothers, the question is upon the appeal from the decision of the Chair. The question is, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the decision of the house. Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. (Cries of "division," "division"). A division is called for.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Junior Vice Commander, will you please state that question again. I know some here did not understand the way they were voting. Several voted on the wrong side, not knowing they were voting that way.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER : Brothers, I will put the question again. The question is, shall the decision of the Chair be sustained. Those who are in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will make it known by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The noes seem to have it. The noes have it. The decision of the Chair is not sustained.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I now ask for a division of the house on the question of the adoption of the minority report.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Commander, I second the call.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN : Senior Vice Commander, I second the call.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, the question is on the adoption of the minority report.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I ask for a roll call.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I rise to a question of information. I do not understand, and I think the brothers about me do not understand what the question now before the Encampment is, upon which we are asked to vote. The confusion has been such that we could not get it.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The question is upon the adoption of the minority report submitted by Brother Bundy. On that question a division has been called for, and the Adjutant-General will call the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The Adjutant-General will announce the result of the roll call.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : Senior Vice Commander, the vote is as follows :

Commandery-in-Chief Officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief : Ayes—Rake, Kennedy, Buckley, Hammer, Spink, Redmond, Mabbs, Light, Myers, Heine, Griffin, Bundy, Reed and Davis—14.

Nays—Loebenstein, Merrill, Abbott, Maccabe and Russell—5.

Connecticut, ayes—3.

(Cries of "Just give us the total." "What is the total?")

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : Ayes—76 ; nays—78.

The Commander-in-Chief resumed command.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, by your vote the minority report is lost. The question now recurs on the adoption of the majority report of the committee.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Commander, the committee desires to be heard to close the debate upon the report of the committee.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, my point of order is that the previous question has been ordered and that cuts off debate on the whole proposition, applies to the whole report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It may be so, but I think it would be well to hear Brother Russell. Proceed, Brother Russell.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Commander, there has been a great deal of feeling manifested in this case which seems to me entirely unnecessary. The committee considered this case on the evidence. The committee made this recommendation conscientiously. So far as the decision rendered by myself a year ago is concerned I do not think it is at all in point. The decision which I would now make in this case would not be inconsistent with that decision. Let me read you one clause of that and you will agree with me. I say :

"Surgeon Manning went to the front with all a patriot's zeal, and while he rendered valuable aid and assistance to suffering Union soldiers during the few weeks he was at Alexandria and Washington, yet the evidence is undisputed that his proffered services were not accepted by the Government and that he returned home without having either been mustered into the service of the United States or having served in any other capacity than as a civil surgeon."

My decision is only in line with all the others on the same state of facts, and is not inconsistent with the stand taken by this committee in this matter.

Now, here is a letter from Headquarters Lieut. S. C. Potts Post, G. A. R.

(Read).

That simply shows that the Grand Army takes in members who served in this command. It seems to me this matter has been fully discussed, that you all understand the service, that it was service in the army of the Union during the war 1861-'65, and men of the same standing exactly have been admitted in our Order. I have not any fault to find with the Commander-in-Chief's decision ; it was right under the evidence that was before him, but now we have the evidence of General Miles and other evidence, that he did serve in the Union Army, which he had not ; and this is not a slam at the Commander-in-Chief in any way ; and a refusal to endorse his decision is not contemplated ; the committee coincides with the decision, taking the evidence as it was before him, as it was at the time his decision was rendered ; but this committee petitions for the applicant's reinstatement, basing it on the ground of evidence that the Commander-in-Chief did not have before him.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I ask for a recapitulation of the roll-call on the question of the adoption of the minority report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: A recapitulation of the roll-call on the adoption of Brother Bundy's amendment is asked for. Brothers are under the impression that there was some error in the announcement in the result of that vote.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: "Commander and brothers, I sincerely beg the Encampment's pardon, and yet I do not feel as though I ought to, because I wanted to call over and check the vote, but you 'called me down' on it. I find that there is an error in the total vote and I would like very much to call off the vote in the Encampment so that we can check it and know just how we voted. There were no tellers, and I thought I could tabulate it as I went along and be ready to announce the result at the conclusion of the vote. I find there is an error. I would like to check up the vote now."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the vote in detail. Brothers will pay attention and see that the votes of their Divisions are correctly recorded.

The Adjutant-General read the record of the vote as follows :

Commandery-in-Chief Officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief : Ayes—Rake, Kennedy, Buckley, Hammer, Spink, Redmond, Mabbs, Light, Myers, Heine, Griffin, Bundy, Reed and Davis—14.

Nays—Loebenstein Merrill, Abbott, Maccabe and Russell—5.

	Ayes.	Nays.		Ayes.	Nays.
Connecticut.....	3		Nebraska.....		3
Illinois.....	4	4	New Hampshire.....		2
Indiana.....	11		New Jersey.....		6
Iowa.....	1	6	New York.....		7
Kansas.....	3	4	Ohio.....	9	
Kentucky.....	5		Pennsylvania.....	12	1
Maine.....	2		South Dakota.....		1
Maryland.....	4		Vermont.....		2
Massachusetts.....		13	Washington.....	1	
Michigan.....	2	2	Wisconsin.....	1	3
Minnesota.....	1				
Missouri.....	2	3	Total.....	75	62

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The minority report submitted by Brother Bundy is substituted for the majority report of the committee by this vote. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, I desire to make a statement. The Commander-in-Chief stated in this Encampment that it was discourteous upon the part of the New Jersey Division to present this resolution or communication from the Division to this committee. I desire to say—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the brother will permit me, the Commander-in-Chief will save time by saying that, after conference with brothers of the New Jersey Division, he understands the case and withdraws his remarks, so far as they apply to them.

The committee will proceed.

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, I want to say, if granted the courtesy, that we have brothers here who can prove beyond doubt that Fremont Tietze is eligible to this Order, and we produced that evidence before this committee, and this committee made this report declaring Fremont Tietze eligible, and now this Commandery-in-Chief refuses to accept that report, and I want to say to you right here that if this is the kind of justice we are to get from the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, the New Jersey Division, so far as I am concerned, is out of the Order. (Hisses).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother does not understand the question at all. The Chair has repeatedly stated, and the members of the Encampment who have had knowledge of him for the past fifteen years in this organization will, I think, take his word, that he would endeavor with you to establish the eligibility of Brother Tietze. The Chair was entirely sincere in making that statement and stands ready to do that, notwithstanding any action that has been taken or anything that has been said here to-day. (Applause).

Proceed with the report of the committee.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, the original report as amended has not been adopted. I understood that that question was placed before this meeting.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It was placed before the meeting. Proceed with the report.

General Abbott resumed the reading of the report as follows :

"We concur in suggestion relative to a short history of the Order being printed in pamphlet form, same size as C., R. and R., so that they can be bound with future editions of C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection, and this section of the report of the committee is adopted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"With regard to Blue Book, we recommend that no action be taken at this Encampment."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There is no objection. It is adopted.
General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"We refer that portion of the report pertaining to the ritual to the Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There is no objection. It is adopted.
General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"That part of report relating to Division Officers (top of page 5) to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There is no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"We recommend that the question of sick benefits and insurance be left optional with Camps."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair hears no objection.
General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"Relations with G. A. R. and Ladies' Aid Society referred to Committee on Resolutions."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair hears no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"That part relating to membership referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : There is no objection.
General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"That part relating to officers and staff referred to Committee on Resolutions."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair hears no objection.
General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :
"All decisions of the Commander-in-Chief are approved, except No. 5."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Encampment has just approved of Decision No. 5, so that that exception should be stricken out. If there is no objection, this section of the committee's report, with the words "except No. 5" stricken out, is concurred in. The Chair hears no objection, and it is so ordered.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

"Recommending change in No. 49, approved.
"Recommendation to charge \$1.00 for dispensation, not concurred in."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : If there is no objection the recommendations of the committee in reference to the Adjutant-General's report are concurred in. The Chair hears no objection, and it is so ordered.

General Abbott concluded the reading of the report as follows :

"Fraternally submitted in F., C. and L.,

FRANK P. MERRILL,
WALTER PAYNE,
G. B. ABBOTT,
WILLIAM E. BUNDY,
W. H. RUSSELL,
Committee."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work. What is the pleasure of the Encampment ?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted and the committee discharged.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I second the motion.

W. H. RUSSELL : Commander, would it be in order at this time to offer an amendment to the report ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair would say yes.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : On motion to adopt ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Then, Commander, I desire to move an amendment striking out of the report that matter which applies to the Fremont Tietze case.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Does the mover of the motion accept the amendment?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: No, Commander.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move the previous question.

The previous question was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The previous question is seconded, and the question is on the acceptance of the report and the discharge of the committee. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it; the report is accepted and the committee discharged. We will now hear from the Committee on Resolutions.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I rise to a question of privilege. The Commander of the New Jersey Division wishes to retract his remarks.

(Cries of "consent," "consent").

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, we came here from New Jersey to use all honorable means to have Fremont Tietze reinstated. The act of this Commandery rather angered me, as was natural it would any one, with the feeling we had.

I wish to apologize to this Commandery-in-Chief for the words that I uttered, and to withdraw them entirely. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Commandery-in-Chief is apparently satisfied. The Chair is pleased to hear the remarks of the brother from New Jersey. Brother Reed will proceed with the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a question of special privilege. My name is signed to the general report. At the time I introduced the minority report I stated, and I wish it to be so stated in the minutes, that I withdrew my name from the majority report so far as it applies to the case of Fremont Tietze.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The minority report so states and the minutes of the proceedings will so show.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS REPORT (ADDITIONAL).

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Encampment be tendered Mrs. J. V. Cooke, editor, for the beautiful and ably-prepared souvenir edition of national hymns, prepared and presented to the delegates of this Encampment.

Resolved, That the Adjutant-General be directed to forward to Mrs. Cooke a copy of this resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection and the resolution stands adopted.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS FROM DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA.

Petitioning the Commandery-in-Chief to so amend fourth sub-division of Section 1, Article II, Chapter 3, of C., R. and R., so as to permit Divisions with a small membership to fix the ratio of representation of one delegate at-large and one representative for every twenty-five members in good standing.

That resolution is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 29th, 1897.

(Resolution presented by Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15).

WHEREAS, The present ratio of representation of Camps in the Division Encampments, *i. e.*, one delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof (sufficient for the larger Divisions) is too small for the Divisions where there are few Camps, and these with small memberships, making the Encampments of these Divisions little more than meetings of a council, simply to transact routine business, instead of grand reunions of members from all parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, Large and well attended Encampments are, in a great measure, necessary to the success of our Order; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Division of California and Hawaiian Islands, in Eleventh Annual Encampment assembled, that the Commandery-in-Chief be and is hereby respectfully petitioned to amend the fourth sub-division of Section 1, of Article II, of Chapter 3, of the C., R. and R., as follows: After the words, "Fifty members or major fraction thereof in good standing," insert the words, provided that Divisions may by By-Laws fix the representation of Camps as follows: "One representation-at-large and additional representatives in the ratio of one for every twenty-five members or major fraction thereof in good standing;" and

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS OF
CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS DIVISION,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 4th, 1897.

This is to certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Annual Encampment of this Division, at Salinas, California, April 23d, 1897.

Official:

FRANK R. HANDLEY,

Adjutant.

CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Division Commander.

"Your committee is of opinion that this amendment would have a tendency to destroy the ambition in Divisions to increase the number of representatives by building up and increasing their membership; we, therefore, report the resolution negatively."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolution asking that the rank of Past Captain be restored to Brothers Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone, of Camp No. 15, Division of California."

That resolution with the accompanying communication is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 6th, 1897.

(Resolution presented by Guy E. Abbott, of Camp No. 10).

Resolved, By the Division of California and the Hawaiian Islands, in Eleventh Annual Encampment assembled, that we respectfully petition the Commandery-in-Chief to restore to Brothers Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone, of Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, of this Division, their rank as Past Captains, lost by their withdrawal from the Order.

HEADQUARTERS OF
CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS DIVISION,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 4th, 1897.

This is to certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Annual Encampment of this Division, at Salinas, Cal., April 23d, 1897.

Official :

FRANK R. HANDLEY,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 6, 1897.

To the Committee on Resolutions, Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans :

DEAR SIRS AND BROTHERS :—The resolution to which this letter is attached possibly needs some explanation. Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone were identified with the Order in its earliest infancy in this State, being charter members of General John F. Miller Camp, No. 3, the third Camp organized in California and the first in this part of the State. In 1889 they transferred from Miller Camp and organized Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, San Francisco, of which Camp Dunn was the first and Stone the second Captain. After a couple of years prosperity deserted the Order in California and Camps were broken up everywhere. Fair Oaks Camp was reduced in numbers and fell into control of a clique, who forced Dunn and Stone to resign from the Order, and with them went the best element of the Camp. All other Camps in San Francisco and vicinity were broken up, so that it was impossible for these brothers to save their rank as Past Captains.

Lately Dunn and Stone have been induced to rejoin Fair Oaks Camp, and it is hoped through them to regain to the Order all the old "boys" (many of them men of influence) who made the Order such a success in its earlier years. The resolution was introduced by a brother from an outside Camp and was entirely unsolicited by either of the brothers mentioned therein. If your committee can give this resolution a favorable recommendation it will go far toward restoring harmony in this Division, will bring into our ranks many most desirable recruits and will be an act of justice to two very worthy brothers. Fraternally yours,

FRANK R. HANDLEY, Adjutant.

"It appears from the record that these two brothers had voluntarily withdrawn from the Order; we, therefore, report the resolution with a negative recommendation."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows :

Resolution presented by Brother A. L. Sorter, Jr., of the Division of Iowa :

That we recommend that the members of the Commandery-in-Chief, as individuals, use their influence to induce the members of the various Divisions to subscribe for and support the worthy organs now being published in our interests by brothers of the Order, and that the printing of the Order be given to the fraternal press in all cases where it can meet competition.

Recommended affirmatively by the committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection and the resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows :

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION OF MARYLAND,

praying for closer relations with the G. A. R., to the end that Sons of Veterans be admitted to meetings of the G. A. R. These resolutions are as follows :

"We, the Committee on Resolutions, respectfully report that

"WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of Mansfield Camp, No. 2, of this Division, it was

"*Resolved*, That Mansfield Camp endorse the action of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, in their endorsement of the resolution providing for the admittance of Sons of Veterans into their meetings during the transaction of active business, initiation, etc., to be referred to the National Encampment, G. A. R., to be held at Buffalo, N. Y.; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That this Encampment instruct its Representative and Representative-at-Large to the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., to use all honorable means to secure the favorable approval of the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans to the above resolution of Mansfield Camp; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That the Representative and Representative-at-Large use their best endeavors to secure favorable action of the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., to a resolution to secure the endorsement by the National Encampment, G. A. R., to the resolution adopted by the Department of Maryland, G. A. R., admitting Sons of Veterans to their meetings."

Which report was adopted.

In the same line the following section from the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports is quoted, viz.:

"*Seventh*. Your committee coincides with the Division Commander in his reference to the closer relations that have existed and should exist between the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Veterans."

Which report was adopted.

This subject having been considered in Resolution No. 3, your committee report it back without action.

Fraternally submitted by the Committee on Resolutions,

R. M. J. REED, Chairman,
WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF,
FRANK L. SHEPARD,
MICHAEL CROWLEY.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection, the action of the committee is concurred in.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the report be received and the committee discharged.

The motion was seconded.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to call the attention of the committee to the resolution with reference to Mrs. Cooke and the souvenir edition of national hymns prepared and presented to delegates. I would say for the information of the committee that W. O. Pierce bore the entire expense. I think Mrs. Cooke was the author or suggested the scheme, but Dr. Pierce bore the expense and wrote the music of the hymn, "The Banner of Beauty and Glory." We desire to have Dr. Pierce's name inserted in that resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection, and Dr. Pierce's name will be inserted.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the resolution will then read as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Encampment be tendered Mrs. J. V. Cooke and Dr. W. O. Pierce, for the beautiful and ably-prepared souvenir edition of national hymns prepared and presented to the delegates of this Encampment.

Resolved, That the Adjutant-General be directed to forward to Mrs. Cooke and Dr. Pierce copies of this resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The resolution as amended is adopted in lieu of the original resolution. The question is on the motion to accept the report and discharge the Committee on Resolutions. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried, the report accepted and the committee discharged.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS G. A. R.

The report of the Special Committee on Fraternal Relations to the G. A. R., of which Brother Dustin, of Illinois, is chairman, is now in order.

William G. Dustin, chairman of the committee, submitted the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9th, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans :

Three of the members of the Committee on Fraternal Relations with the Grand Army of the Republic, appointed by Commander-in-Chief Rake, in compliance with a resolution adopted by the last meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, met at Buffalo at the recent meeting of the Grand Army.

Your committee organized by the election of Past Commander Edward W. Hatch, of New York, as chairman. The committee visited the first session of the Encampment and received a hearty reception from Commander-in-Chief Clarkson and the members. Colonel Hatch conveyed the fraternal greetings of our Order to the Grand Army of the Republic and paid a fitting tribute to our fathers.

Commander-in-Chief Clarkson spoke very kindly of our organization and said that we should be encouraged by the Grand Army in every way, and that he thought an invitation to meet with them would be encouraging to the Sons.

Your committee would respectfully recommend that a committee of three be selected by the incoming Commanders-in-Chief, on Fraternal Relations with the Grand Army, and that the necessary expenses of said committee be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief. We believe that this is one of the most important and beneficial duties of our organization, and that in the future it should not be necessary for a Commander-in-Chief to ask for volunteers to perform this most important duty to our fathers.

EDWARD W. HATCH, New York,
W. DESTEESE,
WILLIAM G. DUSTIN, Illinois.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Fraternal Relations with the G. A. R.; what is your pleasure?

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move that the report be received and adopted and the committee discharged.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to second that motion.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I want to inquire if the report of the committee contemplates the appointment of a standing committee to visit the next Encampment of the G. A. R., whose expenses are to be paid by this body?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes, a committee of three.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I move to strike out the expense part.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I second that motion.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I accept the amendment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the report, with the words "that the necessary expenses of said committee be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief" stricken out, be received and adopted and the committee discharged. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is agreed to and the report adopted as amended by striking out the provision that the Commandery-in-Chief shall bear the expenses of the committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY RESERVE.

The report of the Committee on Military Reserve is next in order. Brother Rooney is chairman of that committee.

Chairman Rooney submitted the following report :

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—The Committee on National Legislation, appointed for the purpose of securing the passage of a bill establishing Sons of Veterans' Camps as a reserve militia, begs leave to submit the following report :

A bill was introduced in the 54th Congress by Representative Kiefer, of Minnesota, and referred to the Committee on the Militia. It was not reported by the committee nor acted upon by the House or Senate. In the 55th Congress the same bill was re-introduced by Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, and again referred to the same committee. On account of the fact that no committees were appointed during the first session of this Congress, no action could be taken upon it.

Some opposition developed as to the form of the bill, which can easily be amended so as to remove the charge of class legislation. Nothing, however, can be done until the beginning of the next session of Congress in December.

Your committee respectfully recommend that a committee of three be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief with power to draft a new bill or to take other action to secure proper legislation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

W. H. RUSSELL,
W. J. PATTON,
E. R. CAMPBELL,
C. D. ROONEY.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the report and the discharge of the committee.

The motion was seconded.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, is that with or without expense?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Without expense. The question is on the adoption of the report and discharge of the committee. As many as are in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The report is adopted and the committee is discharged.

Has the Committee on Credentials any further report to make? If not, the Credential Committee should be disposed of.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the Committee on Credentials be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the committee discharged. That disposes of the reports of committees. We pass now to new business.

IN REGARD TO THE MUSTER OF RECRUITS.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, it seems there was a slight oversight when we passed the amendment to the C., R. and R. upon my motion; we did not refer to the two things in the ritual that make it absolutely necessary in order to have a proper muster of recruits. At the suggestion of a number of brothers I will move a reconsideration of the vote adopting that amendment in order to offer it in this form:

Section 2. The full use of the ritualistic ceremonies on the muster of recruits is optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership, the closing instruction by the Captain in the degree of Loyalty in presenting the insignia of the Order, and the demonstration of the Order and the demonstration of the secret work shall never be omitted.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection to the substitution? There appears to be none. All in favor of the substitution of this amendment for the one heretofore moved by Brother Bundy will give assent by the usual sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, the Committee on Ritual is not discharged. I move that committee be discharged with thanks.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the Committee on Ritual be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The committee is discharged with thanks and without expense. (Laughter).

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER ELECTED TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, on behalf of the representatives of the Indiana Division, and on my own behalf, I desire as briefly as possible to make a motion that Section 5, Article II, page 36, of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order be suspended, and that Brother Charles A. Bookwalter, of the Indiana Division, be made a life member of the Commandery-in-Chief.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, the motion having been seconded, I desire to be heard.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that Section 5, Article II, of C., R. and R., be suspended and that Brother Charles A. Bookwalter, of the Indiana Division, be elected to life membership in the Commandery-in-Chief. Brother Griffin has the floor.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to say in the first place, that while this is an unusual matter and an unusual distinction—and we mean it as such—there is precedent for it. Brother Bookwalter has been chairman and head of the Committee on Arrangements of this Division, and what his services and courtesies have been you all well know. I remember that at the Cincinnati Encampment Brother Luther Davis, who was the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements of that Encampment, was given this honor; and it has been done in other cases. We ask it on behalf of the Indiana Division in honor of one of the most energetic, consistent and loyal members that the Order of the Sons of Veterans has or has ever had. (Applause). Brother Bookwalter's services are known to everybody in this Order. There has scarcely been an Encampment that he has not attended. He is always at the front, whether it is in discussions upon the floor of the Encampment, or as chairman of Committee on Arrangements or as a steering committee to show brothers the town. In any one of these capacities he is an expert.

I know your time is short, and while I would like to say more, I will make it brief and simply ask, as a compliment to Brother Bookwalter's Division, that you suspend this rule and make him a life member.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, in behalf of the Division of New York, and speaking from my own personal desires upon this question, it gives me great pleasure to second this motion. The Constitution requires at least a two-thirds vote. It would be a high compliment, but no higher than this brother deserves, if we make it a unanimous vote.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is before the Encampment. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual show of the Order (cries of "a rising vote," "a rising vote") or will rise. Be seated. Contrary, if any, will rise. The motion is unanimously carried and Brother Bookwalter is elected a life member of the Commandery-in-Chief.

Any other new business?

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY COLLEGE TO BE APPOINTED.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, under the head of New Business I move you that the present Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee of five to investigate the advisability of establishing a military college as a memorial to the soldiers and members of the G. A. R., and, if possible, to report some feasible plan to the next Annual Encampment; said committee to act without salary or perquisites.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would prefer, Brother Sorter, that you would make your resolution read that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint this committee, as he will have better facilities.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: With the consent of my second I will alter that feature of it as suggested by the Chair.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection on the part of the second and the question is on the adoption of the resolution as modified in that particular. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

DISPOSITION OF REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I have just been informed that the report of the Council-in-Chief has not been adopted; it was simply made to the Encampment, and was under consideration when the Encampment took recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to the Encampment, without desiring to make an arbitrary ruling, that the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief raising the per capita tax was by motion laid on the table. When the motion was put by Governor Jones the Chair immediately asked the brother whether that meant to indefinitely lay it upon the table, and he said it did. That being the case, it cannot be taken up at this session, and the per capita tax remains at sixteen cents.

AMENDMENT TO ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

EDWARD K. DEPUY, of Maryland: Commander, I wish to propose an amendment to the Constitution. The amendment I propose is this, to change Article V, Section 1, Eligibility to Membership, so that it will read in this way:

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the war of 1861-'65 and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who by reason of death or honorable discharge severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has, ever borne arms against the government of the United States of America.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: As I understand the intent of this amendment is to change the language so as to specifically provide for the son of a soldier who was killed or died in the service, and also to specifically provide a place for the son of a Union Army officer who is to-day in the service. I understand that it does not change the eligibility clause in any other respect, but simply makes it specific that the son of a soldier who died or was killed during the Rebellion, or the son of a United States Army officer who is still in the service, and consequently could not have been discharged therefrom at the close of the war, is eligible. It simply covers those two cases that at present do not appear to be provided for clearly in the eligibility clause of our Constitution.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, I move the adoption of the amendment.

The motion was seconded.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I move the previous question on that amendment.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the previous question.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the adoption of the amendment to the eligibility clause of the Constitution. On that the previous question is moved.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I want to ask whether the sons of officers of the regular army who were in the service prior to the outbreak of the war and who are now in the service are not eli-

gible, whether their fathers did or did not receive a discharge at the end of the War of the Rebellion. As a matter of fact many did not. In my own experience as Commander-in-Chief that question was not raised at any time; but I want to ask whether or not there could not be a ruling by the Commander-in-Chief in the event that a question of that sort did arise that would absolutely meet everything, and if that would not be better than going to work to tear this thing up. I ask that as a matter of information. Suppose, in the wisdom of Providence, General Miles had a young son who desired to join this organization. We will assume that General Miles was never discharged as a volunteer officer during the war of 1861-'65. Suppose that application came to my Camp and we submitted it to Brother Parkinson as Commander-in-Chief for decision, whether or not Brother Parkinson would not decide that the boy was eligible to join, and whether his ruling would not become law, as a matter of fact?

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, I desire to say that the volunteer officers who became officers of the regular army were mustered out as volunteer officers and then were mustered into the regular army of the United States; but officers of the regular army were not discharged at the end of the rebellion, but continued as officers until they retired or died. In my judgment this is the proper action to take.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The previous question has been moved and seconded. All in favor of the question will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion appears to be carried; the motion is carried. The question now is upon the adoption of the amendment. All those in favor of the amendment will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The amendment seems to be adopted. The amendment is adopted.

SALARIES OF DIVISION OFFICERS.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I desire to offer an amendment to the Constitution. It occurs in a great many Divisions that they are hopelessly in debt through the carelessness of their officers and through the looseness of Division By-Laws. I feel there should be provision in the Constitution prohibiting the careless expenditure of money. The salaries of Division officers should depend on the amount of work they do. We find Divisions in debt four or five hundred dollars, who have scarcely that many men in the Division. You take the Division of Missouri--and I beg pardon for calling attention to it--at one time it had twenty-seven hundred members and paid something over two hundred dollars a year for the services of its Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General. It has now nine hundred members and pays three hundred dollars a year to those officers. The number of members has dropped down two-thirds and yet they have increased the pay for looking after them. My recommendation is that there be a constitutional prohibition against paying salaries beyond a certain per centage of the per capita tax to officers of the Division for services. If they want to increase their salaries, let them increase the membership of their Divisions.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is obliged to rule the proposed amendment out of order. It is a matter that could only come up in Division Encampments. We delegate to Divisions the power to govern themselves, and so long as they do not usurp the powers of the Commandery-in-Chief, the Commandery-in-Chief cannot control them. If the Divisions that are in this Commandery cannot govern themselves, they must take the consequences.

NEW INSPECTION BLANKS.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, in view of the amendment to the Constitution that we have adopted, in reference to optional use of the ritual, I move that the Inspector-General be instructed to prepare and issue a new inspection blank that will meet the requirements of the new order of things.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That requires no motion. The Commander-in-Chief can so order.

A NEW ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to make a motion. The eligibility clause in our Constitution has long been a trouble to the Order. In every Encampment we have modified it in one way or another, until most of us do not know the true meaning of the eligibility clause. It is modified by locality; it is modified by our own positions; and I think we should have a standard clause put in there by persons who are acquainted with all the circumstances concerning the difficulties that have arisen under the present eligibility clause. I move you, therefore, that a committee be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to report for the consideration of the next Encampment an eligibility clause.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I second the motion.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, on that question I move the previous question.

The previous question was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee to draft a new eligibility clause to the Constitution, to be submitted to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. On that motion the previous question has been moved. The question is, shall the main question be now put? Those in favor will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, the same sign. The previous question is ordered. The question is then upon Brother Orner's motion. Those in favor will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried.

SELECTION OF NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you that we now proceed to the selection of the place of meeting for the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief proceed to the selection of the place for its next meeting. Those in favor will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

RECESS FOR FIVE MINUTES.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I move that this Encampment take recess for five minutes in order to enable Mr. Parks, a gentleman who is not a member of the Order or a member of the Grand Army, to present the claims of one of the places that desires to entertain the Encampment at its next national meeting.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That seems to be absolutely fair, and if there is no objection the Chair will declare recess by consent.

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, I move that nominating speeches be limited to five minutes.

(Cries of "two," "two," and "three," "three").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion seems to meet with the approval of the house. It seems to be the sentiment of the house that nominating speeches be limited to three minutes. All in favor of that will give assent by the usual sign of the Order. It is agreed to.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander-in-Chief and brothers of the Encampment, I have the honor of introducing to you Mr. Parks, proprietor of the Hotel Victory, at Put-in-Bay.

MR. PARKS' INVITATION.

MR. PARKS: Commander-in-Chief, I do not have the honor to be either a member of the Grand Army or of this great organization, but I think that I am in touch and in sympathy with the object and ends and purposes for which you have gathered here. You will remember that eighty-four years ago yesterday was one of the dark periods in the history of our country. The capital of our country was in the hands of a foreign

foe. Every conflict upon the great lakes, every naval encounter, had ended in trailing the stars and stripes in ignominious defeat, while the Union Jack of England had risen on our lakes in exultant triumph. Eighty-four years ago to-day Commodore Perry with a fleet that he had made himself, of which he was the architect and builder, representing as he did the invincible courage and energy of New England, combined with the irresistible valor and push of the then new Northwest, sailed out to meet the enemy opposite what is known as the famous Put-in-Bay Island, sailing out from Put-in-Bay. There, off between the beautiful islands called Green Island and Rocky Island, was fought that famous victory, and the words were sent across the continent, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." (Applause). This was the conflict which decided and determined whether the great northwest should be under the stars and stripes, or should be controlled by Great Britain. Next year we propose to celebrate that occasion in a fitting manner. There has been erected at Put-in-Bay a magnificent hotel, costing, with furniture, a half million dollars; six hundred feet in length, three hundred feet in depth, surrounding a court two hundred feet square. In it we can take care of fifteen hundred people. It is situated in Forest Park, consisting of twenty-one acres, gradually rising from the lake until it looks over the scene of this contest from a height of eighty feet above the level of the water. My time is short, but I want to say this, that every modern convenience can be found, not only at that hotel, but at others, if you come, and next year is the time to celebrate this great victory. If you are with us next year, I will tell you what will take place.

One year from yesterday, as the setting sun shall decline in the west, you will see the waters between Rocky Island and Green Island and Put-in-Bay covered with steam and naphtha launches, sailing yachts and big steam vessels, while along the shores looking out upon the space will be thousands of people watching the coming conflict, which on the very spot will be repeated as it took place eighty-four years ago, and as that conflict shall end, and as the shades of night shall descend upon those beautiful islands, you will turn back and see the twenty-one acres of Forest Park illuminated by electric lights in every direction, with colored illuminated fountains, and in the background will be that building six hundred feet in length, illuminated with its four thousand electric lights, welcoming you to a naval dance in a hall one hundred and eighty-five feet long by fifty feet wide and sixty feet high, where five hundred brave soldiers and sons of soldiers, and the fairest women of the country will wind up that celebration. I tell you we are going to make it a red letter day, and it will be more so if you join with us, because we will feel at loss without you.

Gentlemen, in the name, not only of Hotel Victory and Put-in-Bay, but in the name of the people of Northwestern Ohio, I invite you to come and be with us. We will give you a royal reception. Every convention that has met there almost has decided to come back again, and if you come it will be the red letter day of your lives. I thank you for the attention you have given me.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a question of information; is that without expense? (Laughter).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The recess is concluded and the Commandery is in session again. Are there any other places to be put in nomination?

L. W. KENNEDY, of Colorado: Commander, inasmuch as you want me to be brief I will refrain from delivering the extended address that I have prepared for this occasion. I will simply say that the city of Denver, the great city of Colorado, wants this Encampment next year and wants it in earnest, and will treat you right if you come.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Any other places?

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, the brothers of this Encampment who have our interest at heart and who are in favor of coming to Omaha, being well acquainted with the fact that I seldom open my mouth without putting my foot in it, have told me to be very careful or I would talk my case to death; so I will not say more than that if you will come out there "we will not do a thing to you." I will simply read the communications from others.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

OMAHA, NEB., September 4th, 1897.

National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GENTLEMEN:—As Mayor of the City of Omaha, as one of the "Old Boys of '61," a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Veterans, I take pleasure in extending to you a cordial invitation to hold your National Encampment of 1898 in Omaha.

The great Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be open from June to November, and it will be a splendid opportunity for the "boys" to take in the Exposition and see the great West while attending the Encampment, on the exceedingly low rates which will be in effect from all parts of the country during the Exposition.

Our Exposition management would gladly set apart the days of your convention as special Sons of Veterans' days, and it would be a grand object lesson, with its flags, fireworks, illuminations and patriotic addresses, of the power of American patriotism, and would serve to increase the reverence and honor of the American people for the "old soldier and the old flag."

Nebraska has as many patriotic citizens to the square foot as any State in the Union and every one of them will enthusiastically welcome you if you come to Omaha in 1898. In extending this invitation to you I assure you that I voice not only the sentiment of the City of Omaha, but of every old veteran, Son of a Veteran and citizen of the State of Nebraska and of the Trans-Mississippi region.

There is also to be a gathering of the G. A. R. living in the Trans-Mississippi States, which will bring over 10,000 old veterans, and with the mobilization of the Regular Army and National Guards we will have fully 50,000 soldiers in camp at one time in our midst.

As Mayor of Omaha I shall stand ready to turn over the keys of the city to the boys upon their arrival. Fraternally,

FRANK E. MOORES,
Mayor.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

OMAHA, NEB., September 4th, 1897.

National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, in Annual Convention Assembled, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GREETING:—I am directed by the management of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to extend to your society a cordial invitation to hold your annual convention for 1898 at the City of Omaha.

The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition is designed to illustrate the products, resources, capabilities and civilization of the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories of the United States and of foreign countries. It is proposed that this Exposition shall be second only to the World's Columbian Exposition, held at Chicago in 1893.

The very low railroad rates which will be granted to visitors to the Exposition will be available for the members of your society and will be of benefit in securing a large attendance at your annual meeting.

The Exposition will open June 1st and close November 1st, 1898. The management of the Exposition and the citizens of Omaha will use every effort to make your sojourn in our city both pleasant and profitable.

Trusting that it may be your pleasure to decide to hold your annual convention for 1898 in the "Gate City" during the Exposition period, I am,

Yours very truly, JOHN A. WAKEFIELD, Secretary.

HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, G. A. R.
STANTON, NEB., September 6th, 1897.

To the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

On behalf of the Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you a cordial invitation to hold your next Annual Encampment in the City of Omaha, Neb.

An effort is being made to hold a grand interstate reunion of the old soldiers living west of the Mississippi River at Omaha in 1898, and we will endeavor to so time it that the Sons of Veterans can meet with them at the time of their Encampment.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition will be held at Omaha in 1898, which will be second only to the World's Fair held at Chicago, which will afford you an opportunity to witness the marvelous transformation of the Great American Desert to the Great American Garden.

On behalf of our old comrades I bid you and all your friends a cordial welcome. Whatever is ours shall be yours, and our energies will be devoted to making your meeting with us both pleasant and profitable—pleasant for you and profitable to us. I remain yours fraternally in F., C. and L.,

JOHN A. EHRHARDT,
Department Commander.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB OF OMAHA.

OMAHA, NEB., September 4, 1897.

To the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GREETING:—The Commercial Club, of this city, by unanimous action, cordially invites your worthy organization to select the City of Omaha, Neb., as the place for holding your next annual meeting for the year 1898.

The membership of this club is composed of all the business and professional interests of this city of all classes.

Provided you select Omaha for your next meeting place we will furnish ample accommodations for meetings, also guarantee first-class hotel accommodations at reasonable rates. (The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be in operation at that time, which will be second only to the World's Fair and will be an attractive feature for your meeting). Omaha is the central city of the United States. Twenty lines of railway diverge from Omaha, forming a direct line of road to every city in the country. This city is midway on the shortest trans continental line between the oceans. Provided any of your members desire to go farther west a direct line of road runs from Omaha to all places of interest, including the Black Hills, Yellowstone Park, Colorado, Salt Lake and California.

The fact of the Exposition being in Omaha in 1898 will guarantee you less passenger rates than you could otherwise secure.

Again we urge you to come to Omaha in 1898. The freedom of the city is extended to you and you will be entertained by warm hearts and prodigal hands.

Hoping your meeting in Indianapolis will be attended with success, and extending to you our best wishes, I am, yours very truly,

J. E. UTT,

Secretary of Omaha Commercial Club.

P. S.—We will also furnish music for entertainment, etc.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Are there any other places to be placed in nomination? If there are no others the Chair will declare nominations closed. Put-in-Bay, Denver and Omaha are before the Encampment. What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to voting?

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, Mr. Parks overlooked the question of hotel rates and transportation. He requests me to state that the distance is about sixty miles from the city of Cleveland, and there is transportation over there by boat, and the hotel rates will be two and three dollars a day during the sessions of the Encampment.

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, we will make the same rates at Omaha, or better.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the vote will be taken by Divisions. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Ohio was called:

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, we desire to withdraw the nomination of Put-in-Bay and move, if it can be done with the consent

of Brother Kennedy, that Omaha be selected unanimously as the place of holding the next annual Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that Omaha be selected as the place of holding the next Annual Encampment. This can only be done at this time by unanimous consent. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, I desire to say we thank you and will do the right thing by you.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the next will of the Commandery-in-Chief?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that we now proceed to the election of a Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for the nomination of candidates. Is it the pleasure of the Encampment that the candidate shall simply be named by the spokesman of the Division or shall there be nominating speeches? (Cries of "name him," "name him").

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that nominating speeches be limited to three minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will proceed with the roll-call.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Alabama and Tennessee.

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, Alabama and Tennessee gives way to Massachusetts.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander and brothers, three minutes is not enough time for me to present to you and say all that I desire to say on behalf of New England's Darling candidate. (Applause). But, sir, three minutes will suffice as well as would three months, because in ninety days I could not present his virtues, his goodness of heart, capacity and executive ability; I know whereof I affirm in that particular, for I have come in very close contact with him, and I can say truly and sincerely that a more loyal, and more devoted and better business man in my opinion does not exist to-day in this organization. I say it with all due deference to the magnificent brain and to the magnificent capacity as demonstrated here in this convention this week.

On behalf of old rockbound New England, then, we present for your honorable consideration the name of the brother whom we regard with the highest esteem; and those who came in contact with him during his service as Adjutant-General of this organization will bear me out in the assertion that he fulfilled the duties attendant upon that office well and faithfully. Nothing need be said of any man more than that. This he has done and when he was Adjutant-General of the Order that was the highest honor that he personally desired; but New England, appreciating that magnificent ability, does not rest content with his modest conception of his worth and his modest ambition; we say to him you must go higher; you must do that which belongs to the organization; you must lead, and you will build up this great pure monument of patriotism and charity that indeed we may be second in word and deed to the parent organization, that glorious organization whose members bared their breasts to shot and shell that Old Glory might live and that the spirit of disintegration might be stamped under loyal feet. We want him where he can meet the exigencies that may arise and lead us on to further glory, and as Abbott, and as Merrill, and as Bundy and as Russell live to-day in our love, and live in the gallery of our fame forever, we want our loyal Darling to rest side by side with them, so that not only will he be our Darling, but your Darling as well.

Therefore, Commander, on behalf of old New England, I present for your honorable consideration the name of Charles Kimbal Darling for Commander-in-Chief of this organization. (Applause).

The Adjutant-General continued the calling of the roll.

When the Division of Illinois was called :

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois : Commander, I rise on behalf of Illinois to subscribe to everything that Past Commander Maccabe has said in reference to Brother Darling ; he has the respect of every member of this Commandery-in-Chief, and we believe that the principles of our fraternity have been exemplified by him, and we believe also that those principles will be furthered by the election of Brother Darling. Without taking further time the Division of Illinois takes pleasure in seconding the nomination of Brother Darling. (Applause).

When the Division of Iowa was called :

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa : Commander, Iowa has no candidate to present. I am authorized to withdraw the name of Louis A. Dilley and second the nomination of Charles K. Darling.

When the Division of Kentucky was called :

T. Z. MORROW, of Kentucky : Commander, for the first time in the history of the south the Kentucky delegation did intend to present a name, for the south and of the south, to this Encampment for recognition ; but in deference to the magnificent Division of Massachusetts, and in deference to the magnificent candidate they have presented, Kentucky forgoes her intention to present a candidate and desires to second the nomination of Brother Darling. (Applause).

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa : Commander, if there are no other nominations I move that the rules be suspended and—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The motion is not in order at this time ; the balance of the Divisions have not been called.

When the Division of Maryland was called :

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland : Commander, on behalf of the Division of Maryland I rise to second the nomination of the son of the man who served with the Vermont Brigade under the gallant Stadden and who was one to help to break Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. I second the nomination of Brother Darling, of Massachusetts.

When the Division of Michigan was called :

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan : Commander, Michigan wants the New England Darling to become ours as well as theirs. I therefore second the nomination of Darling.

When the Division of New Jersey was called :

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, New Jersey seconds the nomination of Charles K. Darling.

When the Division of New York was called :

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, Brother Maccabe's candidate seems to be a Darling on general principles, and New York seconds the nomination.

When the Division of Ohio was called :

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, Ohio is never without a darling. If she has not one of her own she adopts one. Ohio seconds the nomination of Charles K. Darling, of Massachusetts.

When the Division of Pennsylvania was called :

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, the largest Division in the Commandery-in-Chief heartily seconds the nomination of Brother Darling, of Massachusetts. (Applause).

When the Division of South Dakota was called :

R. J. COURTNEY, of South Dakota : Commander, as there are a great many bachelors in South Dakota, and we second the nomination of the Darling.

When the Division of Wisconsin was called :

CHARLES C. TOWNSEND, of Wisconsin : Commander, last but not least, Wisconsin wishes to second the nomination of Charles K. Darling and move that the Commandery-in-Chief make his election unanimous.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I move that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the entire vote of this Commandery-in-Chief for Charles K. Darling as Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Out of courtesy, I trust Brother Speelman will give way to Brother Wilson, of Iowa, who rose to make a similar motion a few moments ago.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Certainly, Commander.

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa : Commander, I move that the rules be suspended and the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the entire vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

T. C. HARTER, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF : It is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for the Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion please rise. Be seated. Those opposed, if any, will rise. It is unanimously carried. The Adjutant-General will cast the vote of this Encampment accordingly.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : Commander, I now cast the vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF : Brothers, Charles K. Darling having received the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Commander-in-Chief of the Order, it is my pleasure to announce his unanimous election to that high office (applause); and I designate Past Commanders-in-Chief Russell and Bundy a committee to escort the distinguished brother to this room.

Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling entered escorted by Past Commanders-in-Chief Russell and Bundy.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Commander, your committee have the honor to present to this Encampment Commander-in-Chief-elect Charles K. Darling.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF : Brother Darling, the members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of this Commandery-in-Chief have seen fit to bestow upon you the extraordinary honor of a unanimous election, practically by acclamation. I desire to say that it is creditable alike to the Commandery-in-Chief and to yourself. I congratulate you, sir.

(Applause and cries of "Darling," "Darling," "speech," "speech").

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT DARLING : Commander-in-Chief and brothers of this Commandery, for the great honor which you have conferred upon me, and for the manner of its bestowal, I return my heartfelt and sincere thanks. I trust I appreciate the responsibility which it brings, and I trust also that I know what it ought to mean to disappoint the expectations of a body of men such as I see before me, or the great body of the membership of the Order at large, by failure in the performance of my duty in any respect, through lack of knowledge or zeal, in your behalf. I pledge you the earnest and honest effort of my life in your service. We have a great and noble organization, one that is not only laden with all that is best and highest and noblest in this country of ours, and in the appreciation of the service of those who fought in her defense, but also an Order which has a history and traditions of its own, so that to thousands of young men throughout this land it is the brightest and happiest memory of the years of their later boyhood, or earlier and later manhood.

Such an organization as this must not and shall not be permitted to go down. I wish I had it in my power to point the membership of this Order to the body which has been assembled here during the past few days. I wish I had it further in my power to appoint every member of this Commandery-in-Chief and aid with power to go out into his own Division and work for the upbuilding of the Order, but such is, perhaps, not practicable. I do, however, ask one thing at your hands, and that is that when we take back to Boston the Headquarters of the Commandery, that it shall not be

with a feeling of loneliness or lonesomeness, as we open up our Headquarters, but that we may throughout the year hear from you and hear from you often; that we may have good counsels as well as bad news. That from certain Divisions in this Order the only communications which come may not be the quarterly reports, or excuses for not sending them, or a request for some decision, or some opinion; but that we may throughout the year be kept in close touch with the various Divisions of the Order. I did not intend at this time to make an extended speech. I only ask you for your kind consideration during the year, and your earnest co-operation in all that we may endeavor to do for the upbuilding of the organization. I thank you. (Applause).

ELECTION OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: Nomination of candidates for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief is now in order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: "Alabama and Tennessee."

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, Alabama and Tennessee gives way to Illinois.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to be as brief as possible; Illinois has the pleasure of presenting a brother for the honorable position of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Commandery-in-Chief. I shall name for that office a brother who has been known through the west as one of the hardest workers, one of the war horses in the work for the preservation and extension of the Order. By his efforts he has made the Division of Michigan one of the leading Divisions of the Order. At a time when his Division, perhaps owing to sickness of his own, or inability of Division officers, or want of enthusiasm, was not up to its previous standard, he took to the Camps and worked with the rank and file and built up his Division, and within the last six months worked up the enthusiasm in that Division until its membership has been nearly doubled.

This brother is distinguished both in a military and a civic way. There is scarcely one of his brothers who does not know him as well in some other capacity. He is fitted to fill any position in the gift of this Order. I do not wish to refer to my personal knowledge, but I wish to say to you that at the time of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. met at Milwaukee, and at other times, when I desired the assistance of a particularly able military brother to bring in his Camp or his company, and put up an exhibition drill, or for any purpose of that kind, for the benefit of the Commandery-in-Chief, I found the right man in Brother Cogshall. He has marched his command many hundred miles in various directions for our benefit and the benefit of the organization, and I feel that it is eminently fitting at this time that we elevate to the position of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief George E. Cogshall, of the Division of Michigan.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Adjutant-General be authorized to cast the vote of this Commandery-in-Chief for Brother Cogshall as Senior Vice-Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The rules must be suspended. If there is no objection I will consider the motion as made in that way. Those who are in favor of it will so signify by the usual sign of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously, and the Adjutant-General will cast the vote of the Commandery for Brother Cogshall for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the unanimous vote of the Commandery-in-Chief is cast for George E. Cogshall for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: Is Brother Cogshall present? I have the pleasure of announcing to you, Brother Cogshall, that you have been selected for this high office by the unanimous vote of this Encampment. I congratulate you. Do you accept the office?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT COGSHALL: Commander and brothers, it gives me pleasure at this time to accept this

high office tendered to me as you have to-day. It is an honor that any man may well be proud of to have any office tendered to him at the hands of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America; and it is a pleasure which I will carry home with me, and it will be my effort to do all that I can to uphold this Order through the coming year.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the further calling of the roll for nominations be dispensed with.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That will be taken by consent, if there is no objection. We will now proceed to the nomination and election of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

ELECTION OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, it gives me great pleasure to comply with the wishes of one of the most prominent Divisions in this Order in presenting a candidate for your consideration at this time. We all appreciate the royal hospitality that has been showered upon us by the city of Indianapolis and by the Division of Indiana. Never within my knowledge have we been so lavishly entertained. Never within my knowledge have the arrangements been so complete, so perfect, and has such a high standard been set for us to rally round in the future. In fact there is only one thing left, after the resolutions that have been adopted, which we can do to convey a sense of our gratitude, and that I am certain this Commandery will be only too glad to sanction, and that is to elect the candidate that I shall name. The hospitality of Indiana has been such, the hospitality of Indianapolis has been such that we can safely carry in our hearts that little couplet:

"Come in the night-time, come in the morning,
Come when looked for, come without warning;
Comfort and cheer you will find here before you,
And the oftener you come the more we'll adore you."

It gives me great pleasure, Commander, to present the name of James W. Noel, in behalf of the Division of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief (applause), and if there be no other nominations, I move you that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of this Encampment for James W. Noel for Junior Vice Commander-in Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant General cast the vote of the Encampment for James W. Noel, of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander-in Chief for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is unanimously agreed to.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL: Commander, by direction of the Encampment, I cast its entire vote for James W. Noel, of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is Brother Noel present? Brother Noel, it is my pleasure to announce your unanimous election to this important office. Do you accept?

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, the Division of Indiana, after the Encampment passed the resolution, decided that the Indiana Division would not present a candidate to the Commandery-in-Chief for election to any office. It was the intent that the hospitality of Indiana should be free and that we should invite no compensation or recognition for it. I will say to the brothers that I thank you in behalf of the Indiana Division for this compliment which has come without seeking; it gives us the feeling that we have done our duty in a respectable manner at least. I take this opportunity to thank this Order for the compliment that is conferred upon me as a representative of the magnificent Division to which I belong, and I will say to you that I will try to the best of my ability to perform any duty that may be assigned me officially for this Order. (Applause).

ELECTION OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is now ready to enter upon the nomination and election of

three members of the Council-in-Chief, and for that purpose I recognize Brother Bolton, of Massachusetts.

F. E. BOLTON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I desire to be very brief, but not the less earnest, when I say it affords me great pleasure and gratification at this particular time, in accordance with the custom of the organization for many years, to move that the Commander-in-Chief designate some one to cast the ballot of this Encampment for Horace H. Hammer for the first member of the Council-in-Chief.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, it affords the Ohio Division great pleasure to second that motion.

WILLIAM G. DUSTIN, of Illinois: Commander, Illinois takes pleasure also in seconding that motion.

L. W. KENNEDY, of Colorado: Commander, Colorado also seconds the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and numerous seconded that the Chair designate some one to cast the ballot of the Encampment for Adjutant-General Horace H. Hammer for member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual show of the Order. The motion is carried unanimously. The Chair will designate for that purpose Brother Bolton, of Massachusetts.

F. E. BOLTON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I desire to announce by authority of the Commandery-in-Chief that the unanimous ballot of this Encampment is cast for Horace H. Hammer for member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The announcement is made that Brother Hammer has been elected unanimously as member to the Council-in-Chief. Brother Hammer, do you accept the office?

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER: I do, Commander, and return my thanks for the honor conferred upon me.

REGRETS OF GOVERNOR MOUNT.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to convey to the Commandery-in-Chief the greetings and regrets of Hon. James A. Mount, Governor of this State, who had promised the committee that he would visit the Commandery this morning. Unforeseen business rendered it impossible for him to be with us this morning; he has been called from his office by an engagement that would not allow any delay. He wished me to say to you that as a soldier—and he was a gallant soldier, being a member of the 72d Indiana and part of that most famous brigade of Wilder, the Iron Brigade—he wished me to say to you that, as a soldier and comrade of your fathers, he wanted you to understand that at all times and upon all occasions the Sons of Veterans of this nation would find in him a friend upon whom they could call for any service. He further said, Mr. Commander, that he wished to convey to the brothers of this Order his thanks for the magnificent manner in which you have shown your appreciation of the tender of this building. He said that he wished also to say to you that, if in the future any of you should again come to the capital city of Indiana, he would be pleased to have you call upon him in the executive chamber.

Commander and brothers, this is the last announcement that the local committee will have to make, and we bid you good-by.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Bookwalter, I am sure that we appreciate thoroughly the distinguished consideration of the Governor of the great State of Indiana. Our greatest regret is that he has been unable to attend these sessions.

Nomination and election of the additional members of the Council-in-Chief is in order.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF RESUMED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, it gives me pleasure to rise to nominate for the second place on the Council-in-Chief a brother who has proved his ability not only in the private walks of life, but in the

affairs of this great body ; he has already served you in several capacities and his ability is known. An enlargement upon those abilities would only consume time and not make them shine more brightly. It gives me great pleasure to place in nomination for the second place Gen. Borin, of Kansas, and I move you, sir, that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of this Encampment for Gen. Borin for second position in the Council-in-Chief. (Applause).

HOWARD B. GREEN, of New Jersey : Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brother Borin is nominated for the second member of the Council-in Chief, and it is moved and seconded that the Adjutant-General cast the vote of the Encampment for his election. As many as are in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order.

Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to unanimously.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : Commander, by the authority of the Encampment, I hereby cast its entire vote for Brother Borin as a member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brother Borin, it is my pleasure to announce that you have been elected by the Encampment for the second time to serve upon the Council-in-Chief, an honor which you must appreciate as highly as those do who have bestowed it upon you. Do you accept the office ?

C. BORIN, of Kansas : Commander-in-Chief and brothers, I desire at this time to extend to you the assurance of my most distinguished consideration. I thank you for the election and the manner of it.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, I desire to present in the name of Kansas and in the name of the great Division of Minnesota, the name of J. E. Haycraft, one of the best workers in the great northwest, as a candidate for member of the Council-in-Chief, and if there are no other nominations I move that the Adjutant-General be instructed, under suspension of the rules, to cast the vote of the Encampment for Brother Haycraft.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : It is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and the Adjutant-General cast the vote of the Encampment for Brother Haycraft as a member of the Council-in-Chief. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : Commander, in obedience to the vote just taken, I cast the entire vote of the Commandery for Brother Haycraft's election as a member of the Council-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brother Haycraft, it is my pleasure to inform you that you are unanimously elected a member of the Council-in-Chief. Do you accept ?

J. E. HAYCRAFT, of Minnesota : I do, Commander, and I thank the Commandery-in-Chief for the great honor.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The election of officers being completed the final order of business is the installation of the officers-elect. The Chair will designate the Inspector-General to attend to that pleasant duty. I do it for the reason that I am suffering from a throat affection and desire to give it as much rest as I can.

I thank you all for your consideration and esteem and for the perfect order that you have kept most of the time. (Laughter and applause).

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL : I would ask Brother Parkinson, of New York, to act as Inspector-General during the installation service.

The newly elected officers of the Commandery-in-Chief, with the exception of the Commander-in-Chief, were duly installed and conducted to their stations in the Encampment room.

INSTALLING OFFICER SPINK: Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling. I will now call upon you to announce your staff.

Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling announced his staff appointments as follows:

Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton, of Massachusetts.

Inspector General, J. Frank Durston, of New York.

Judge-Advocate General, Edward K. Gould, of Maine.

Surgeon-General, Dan S. Gardner, of Ohio.

Chaplain-in-Chief, Harry J. Veazey, of Alabama and Tennessee.

The Commander-in-Chief and staff, with the exception of Judge-Advocate-General Edward K. Gould, of Maine, were duly installed.

Commander-in-Chief Darling assumed command and the newly installed officers were conducted to their proper stations in the Encampment.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING: Judge-Advocate-General Edward K. Gould, of Maine, will be installed hereafter. Brothers, what is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, as a representative of the Division of Pennsylvania, I desire to say that there has never been anything that has ever come to Pennsylvania that gave us more unalloyed pleasure than the fact that last year you honored us by choosing one of our number for Commander-in-Chief. We believe that the history of this Order will warrant us in saying that there was no deception practiced upon you, and that he did make good by honorable and fair dealing all the promises we made in his behalf, and that as Commander-in-Chief he has striven to do everything in his power for the furtherance of the interests of this organization. I do not propose to make a speech, but I am here for the purpose of performing a pleasant duty, and that is to present a portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Rake to this Commandery-in-Chief (applause); that portrait has peculiar significance to the members of the Pennsylvania Division, as well as to the members of the Commandery-in-Chief. Every portion of that portrait is the work of a Son of a Veteran, from the frame to the painting, and it is presented by Pennsylvania as her tribute to her Past Commander-in-Chief, and we hope that it will be placed upon the walls of Headquarters along with the illustrious predecessors of Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake. I give it on behalf of the Division of Pennsylvania to the Commandery-in-Chief.

PRESENTATION OF JEWEL.

And now, Past Commander-in-Chief Rake, a word to you. Your friends and brothers, not only appreciating your magnificent work in the past in the Division of Pennsylvania, but as Commander-in-Chief of the Commandery-in-Chief of Sons of Veterans, have prepared for you this memento of their affection and regard for you. It is the designation of your past rank, made brilliant not only by the adornment on the badge, but by the service that you have rendered to this Commandery-in-Chief. As such they give it to you with their best wishes, and I believe it is the sentiment of every member of the Commandery-in-Chief in the United States when I say I hope there will not be a year in the long future that we will be debarred of the pleasure of having you with us at the annual meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief. Take this badge with the blessing and the best wishes of every member of the Commandery-in-Chief. (Applause).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Major Reed, Commander-in-Chief and members of this Commandery: While the presentation of a mark is not entirely a surprise to the retiring Commander-in-Chief, I desire to say to you that I am surprised at the magnificence of the gift. I do not propose at this time to detain you with any speech making for I am suffering with quite a bad throat. I simply have to say to you, as I have heretofore said, that I have endeavored during the year to administer the office of Commander without fear or favor to anyone.

Forgetting that there was any clash at any time in this organization I will leave the office endeavoring to maintain your esteem, and if I succeed

in doing that it will repay me for many years' of service in this organization. I will promise you that if alive and well I will be with you at each recurring Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief; and whilst I to-day join that fossilized gang of "has-beens" I warrant you we will make ourselves heard in a few years, for I anticipate that as you go on graduating Past Commanders-in-Chief we will soon get to the point where we can outvote you on any question in the Commandery-in-Chief, and in that way we will once more get back into the active deliberations of this body. I thank you indeed. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I will call upon Past Commander-in-Chief Bundy to accept on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief the portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Rake.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I only object to one remark that has been made, and that is the extreme modesty of Brother Rake when he denominated the rest of us as a "fossilized gang." I know that Brother Rake will do like most of the Past Commanders-in-Chief of this Order, and that is the highest encomium you can place upon him—he will go right back where he started from and be an active participant in Camp work. (Applause).

I consider it an especial honor, knowing his record as I have known it, having studied it for the last twelve years, to be called upon by the Commander-in-Chief to accept this photograph which is to be placed in the picture gallery at Headquarters. We knew what we were doing when we elected him. We know he has made a magnificent and conscientious record; that everything he has done, and everything he has said, has been done and inspired with the sole view of performing his duty, as he understood it, under the Constitution and laws of the Order of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America. And so I say on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief to the Division of Pennsylvania, the largest one in the Order, and in some respects the grandest, that we thank you for this presentation, and we know that so long as that picture may hang in Headquarters—and that will be as long as this Order shall exist—that no one will ever have cause to blush for shame that the Sons of Veterans once had a Commander-in-Chief known as James Lewis Rake. We thank you not only for this presentation, not only for this picture, but we thank you for the man himself. (Applause).

THANKS TO THE INSTALLING OFFICER.

E. W. YOUNG, of Washington: Commander, I think it would be proper at this time that this Encampment express their appreciation of the services of Past Inspector-General Spink as Installing Officer. I make that motion.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the thanks of the Encampment be tendered to Past Inspector-General Spink for his services as Installing Officer. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by rising. Those opposed will now rise. The motion is unanimously agreed to.

MINUTES OF THE STENOGRAPHER APPROVED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that the minutes of the stenographer be approved as the official minutes of the proceedings of this Encampment.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the minutes of the stenographer be approved as the official report of the proceedings of this Encampment. All those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. It is a vote, and it is carried.

THANKS TO THE COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

WALTER E. DUNCAN, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I think it would be in order to give a rising vote of thanks to our past Council-in-Chief, for their work has been very laborious, and they have discharged it with great faithfulness. I make a motion to that effect.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the thanks of the Encampment be voted the Past Council-in-Chief for their faithful service in that capacity. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to request through you that the new Council-in-Chief meet at Room 27, Denison Hotel, at three o'clock.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the statement of the Quartermaster-General. Is there any further business to come before the Encampment?

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Encampment do now adjourn *sine die*.

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., do now adjourn *sine die*. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried.

There being no further business to come before this Encampment, and the motion to adjourn *sine die* being carried, we will now proceed to close in regular form.

The Commander-in-Chief then closed the Encampment in due form.

READING, PA., October 25th, 1897.

The foregoing is a true and correct record and report of the proceedings of the Sixteenth (16th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held in the House of Representatives, State Capitol, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 9th, 10th, 11th, A. D. 1897.

Attest:

H. H. HAMMER,

Past Adjutant-General.

J. L. RAKE,

Past Commander-in-Chief.

RECORD OF ROLL CALLS

...OF THE...

Sixteenth * Annual * Encampment,

OF THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, S. V., U. S. A.

The following shows the members of the Encampment answering roll call:
P, present. A, absent.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF OFFICERS.			
Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake.....	P	P	P
S. V. Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy.....	P	P	P
J. V. Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley.....	P	P	P
Adjutant-General, Horace H. Hammer.....	P	P	P
Quartermaster-General, Rudolp Loebenstein.....	P	P	P
Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink.....	P	P	P
Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond.....	P	P	P
Surgeon-General, J. A. Mabbs, M. D.....	P	P	P
Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. S. Light.....	A	A	P
Council-in-Chief, {	C. Borin.....	P	P
	F. W. Myers.....	P	P
	J. H. Heine.....	P	P
PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.			
Frank P. Merrill.....	P	P	P
A. P. Davis.....	P		P
Walter S. Payne.....	P	P	P
George B. Abbott.....	P	P	P
Charles F. Griffin.....			P
Joseph B. Maccabe.....	P		P
William E. Bundy.....	P	P	P
William H. Russell.....	P	P	P
PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDER.			
R. M. J. Reed.....	P	P	P
CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBER.			
William Luther Davis.....	P	P	P
ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.			
Commander, L. W. Friedman.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	M. D. Friedman.....	P	P
	H. L. Veazey.....	P	P
Delegate-at-large, H. T. Cooper.....		P	P
Delegate, J. J. Straub.....		P	P
COLORADO.			
Delegate-at-Large, George L. Hodges.....	P		P
CONNECTICUT.			
Commander, W. W. Wheeler.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, George E. Cox.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Fred G. Pool.....	P	P	P
ILLINOIS.			
Commander, C. R. Clark.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	C. T. Orner.....	P	P
	C. G. Marsh.....	P	P
	Frank L. Shepard.....	P	P
	William G. Dustin.....	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, George B. Holmes.....	P	P	P

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
ILLINOIS—Continued.			
Delegates, { M. N. Baldwin.....	P	P	P
{ W. T. Church.....	P	P	P
{ C. T. Spackman.....	P	P	P
INDIANA.			
Commander, R. S. Thompson.....	P		
{ John E. Edmonson.....		P	P
{ George C. Harvey.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { John W. Newton.....	P	P	P
{ Newton J. McGuire.....	P	P	P
{ Frank Martin.....		P	P
{ Wm. H. Armstrong.....		P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Horace C. Stillwell.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { J. G. Leffler.....			P
{ Ira W. Christian.....	P	P	P
Substitute Delegate in place of W. H. Case, James W. Noel...	P	P	P
IOWA.			
Commander, A. T. Wilson.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { Lewis A. Dilley.....	P	P	P
{ A. L. Sorter.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, E. C. Weintgarter*.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { W. W. Bisby.....	P	P	P
{ H. C. Ring.....	P	P	P
{ Henry Speelman†.....			P
KANSAS.			
Commander, W. P. Feder.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. Y. Morgan.....	P	P	P
Alternate, E. E. Beard.....	P	P	P
KENTUCKY.			
Commander, T. Z. Morrow, Jr.....		P	
{ George H. Capito.....		P	P
Past Division Commanders, { W. R. Heflin.....		P	P
{ W. A. Field.....		P	P
{ B. F. McClelland.....			P
Delegate-at-Large, Thomas T. Fogle.....		P	P
Alternate, Joseph F. Biggs.....		P	P
MAINE.			
Commander, Arthur M. Soule.....	P	P	P
Delegate, George W. Gragg.....	P	P	P
MARYLAND.			
Commander, Edward K. DePuy.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, E. R. Campbell.....	P	P	P
Delegate at-Large, W. Harry White.....	P	P	P
Delegate, Charles S. Davis†.....		P	P
MASSACHUSETTS.			
Commander, Orange H. Cook.....	P	P	P
{ Nathan C. Upham.....			P
{ William A. Stevens.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { Charles K. Darling.....	P	P	P
{ Daniel F. Goulding.....			P
{ Fred E. Bolton.....	P	P	P
{ Harry D. Sisson.....	P	P	P

* Substituted for James E. Whipple. † Substitute. ‡ Substitute.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
MASSACHUSETTS—Continued.			
Delegate-at-Large, William R. Waterman.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { A. A. Tilden.....	P	P	P
{ Thomas J. Hannon.....	P	P	P
{ C. F. O'Brien.....	P	P	P
{ C. D. Rooney.....	P	P	P
{ L. C. Couch.....	P	P	P
Alternates, { H. E. Morse.....	P	P	P
{ Benjamin A. Harris.....	P	P	P
{ Edward H. Lounsbury.....	P	P	P
MICHIGAN.			
Commander, H. E. Cowdin.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, George E. Cogshall.....	P	P	P
Delegate, H. O. Herrick.....	P	P	P
Alternate, C. J. Post.....	P	P	P
MINNESOTA.			
Delegate-at-Large, D. W. Bevers.....	P	P	P
Delegate, J. E. Haycraft.....	P	P	P
MISSOURI.			
Commander, E. E. Schoening.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Manley Wren.....			P
Delegates, { E. J. Eakin.....	P	P	P
{ Samuel Loebenstein.....	P	P	P
{ Fred W. Miller*.....	P	P	P
NEBRASKA.			
Commander, W. H. Davis.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { F. J. Coates.....	P	P	P
{ George F. Wolz.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, John M. Thurston.....	P	P	P
NEW HAMPSHIRE.			
Commander, Walter S. Willey.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Michael Crowley.....	P	P	P
NEW JERSEY.			
Commander, Jesse R. Dungan.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { Fred D. Morse.....	P	P	P
{ James B. Adams.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, James M. Mathews.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { Howard B. Green.....	P	P	P
{ W. L. Vanderhoof†.....	P	P	P
NEW YORK.			
Commander, John M. Diven.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. Scott Oberdorf.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. Frank Durston.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { W. A. Personias.....		P	P
{ W. D. Spear.....	P	P	P
{ E. C. Parkinson.....	P	P	P
{ Russell B. Harrison†.....			P
Alternate, John V. B. Clarkson.....		P	P

* Substitute. † Alternate Del. ‡ Substitute.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
OHIO.			
Commander, A. W. Jones.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { Filmore Musser.....	P	P	P
{ Dan S. Gardner.....	P	P	P
{ Don C. Cable.....	P	P	P
{ L. Vern Williams.....			P
Delegate-at-Large, R. J. Williams*.....		P	P
Delegates, { H. V. Speelman.....	P		P
{ A. S. Bickham.....	P		P
{ W. G. Thompson.....		P	P
{ E. H. Archer.....		P	P
Alternate, Charles T. Scheid.....		P	P
PENNSYLVANIA.			
Commander, Wildun Scott.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { C. J. Miller.....	P	P	P
{ W. B. McNulty.....			P
{ James H. Tawney.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. Spaulding.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { T. C. Harter.....	P	P	P
{ James Culbertson.....	P	P	P
{ J. Q. Davis.....	P	P	P
{ R. E. DeGroff.....	P	P	P
{ R. F. Schwartz.....	P	P	P
{ Harry Louderback.....			P
{ Hugh M. Irwin.....	P	P	P
{ Walter R. Ross.....	P	P	P
{ W. U. Hall†.....		P	P
{ Walter E. Duncan‡.....		P	P
{ George J. Blum§.....			P
{ Emil Poerstel, Jr. §.....			P
SOUTH DAKOTA.			
Commander, R. J. Courtney.....	P	P	P
VERMONT.			
Past Division Commander, E. T. Monahan.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Glenn A. Wilkins.....	P		P
WISCONSIN.			
Commander, Charles C. Townsend.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. J. Patton.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, William DeSteele.....	P	P	P
Delegate, A. G. Braband¶.....			P

* Substitute. † Substitute. ‡ Substitute. § Substitute. ¶ Substitute.

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JOURNAL OF
PROCEEDINGS

Seventeenth
Annual
Encampment

...of the...

Sons of
Veterans,
U.S.A.

1898



HELD IN
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
SEPTEMBER 12, 13 and 14

Officers and Staff,

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

1898-1899.

Commander-in-Chief:

FRANK L. SHEPARD 84 La Salle St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief:

GEORGE E. COX HARTFORD, CONN.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief:

Z. C. GREEN WHITE, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Council-in-Chief:

H. H. HAMMER READING, PA.

J. E. HAYCRAFT MADEIRA, MINN.

J. D. ROWEN DES MOINES, IA.

Adjutant-General:

G. B. ABBOTT 84 La Salle St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Quartermaster-General:

FRED E. BOLTON Room 947, Tremont Building, BOSTON, MASS.

Inspector-General:

F. W. BRIGGS SHICKSHINNY, PA.

Judge-Advocate-General:

JAMES W. NOEL INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Surgeon-General:

F. H. B. McDOWELL, M.D. RACINE, WIS.

Chaplain-in-Chief:

REV. A. J. MORRIS SOUTH FRANKFORT, MICH.



CHARLES K. DARLING,

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

1897-1898.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SEVENTEENTH
ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

OF THE
SONS OF VETERANS,
U.S.A.

HELD IN
OMAHA, NEBRASKA,
SEPTEMBER 12TH, 13TH AND 14TH,
1898.

BOSTON, MASS.:
E. B. STILLINGS & Co., 55 SUDBURY STREET.
1899.



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

MONDAY — MORNING SESSION.

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 12, 1898.

The Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., convened in Creighton Hall at 11 o'clock A.M., with Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Cogshall in command.

ENCAMPMENT CALLED TO ORDER.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The officers and members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., will now come to order.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the officers of this Encampment.

ROLL-CALL OF OFFICERS.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of officers and the following officers of the Commandery-in-Chief answered to their names: —

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, George E. Cogshall.
Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, James W. Noel.
Council-in-Chief, H. H. Hammer, C. Borin, J. E. Haycraft.
Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton.
Quartermaster-General, R. Loebenstein.
Inspector-General, J. Frank Durston.
Judge Advocate-General, Edward K. Gould.
Surgeon-General, Dr. Dan S. Gardner.
Assistant Adjutant-General, Thomas J. Hannon.
Assistant Quartermaster-General, Fred J. Sanford.

The Adjutant-General: Senior Vice-Commander, I would like to explain that Major Darling, Commander-in-Chief of the organization, is at present in the service of the Government with his regiment at Porto Rico, and is unable to be present for that reason. [Applause, and three cheers for Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling.]

That concludes the roll-call of officers of the Encampment.

ROLL-CALL OF PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, ETC.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant-General will now call the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Grand Division Commanders, and Constitutional Life Members of the Encampment.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Grand Division Commanders, and Constitutional Life

Members of the Commandery-in-Chief, and the following brothers answered to their names: —

Past Commander-in-Chief A. P. Davis, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Past Commander-in-Chief George B. Abbott, New Orleans, La.
Past Commander-in-Chief William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, O.
Past Commander-in-Chief William H. Russell, LaCrosse, Kan.
Past Grand Division Commander R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

The Adjutant-General: Senior Vice-Commander, I have to report all the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief present, except the Chaplain-in-Chief, Harry L. Veazey.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will appoint Past Commander William G. Dustin of the Illinois Division, Acting Chaplain-in-Chief. Brother Dustin will officiate as Chaplain-in-Chief.

Brother Dustin took the station and assumed the duties of Chaplain-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines of the war of 1861-65 present who have not been obligated? If so, the Inspector-General will conduct them to the altar. If there are any such they will please rise. There appear to be none.

The Encampment was then opened in due form.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Now by virtue of the power and authority invested in me, I hereby declare the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it. The Camp Guard will admit all brothers qualified to enter.

I am reminded that I have neglected something. The Inspector-General will please take up the password and countersign. The Surgeon-General will assist the Inspector General.

The Inspector-General: Senior Vice-Commander, upon due investigation, I find that all present are entitled to remain.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the next thing in order is the appointment of a committee on credentials. The Committee on Credentials will be: Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton, Chairman, *ex officio*; Commander Wm. T. Church of Illinois, E. C. Parkinson of New York, H. V. Speelman of Ohio, Past Commander George E. Cox of Connecticut, and Asst. Adjt.-Gen. T. J. Hannon.

What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Encampment now take recess for twenty minutes, in order to give the Committee on Credentials time to make a partial report.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the Commandery took recess.

12.30 o'clock P.M.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers will please come to order. The Camp Guard will close the door. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

The Inspector-General: Senior Vice-Commander, all present are entitled to remain.

PARTIAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Listen to the report of the Committee on Credentials.

The Adjutant-General submitted the following report from the Committee on Credentials: —

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief:

Your Committee on Credentials reports that the Divisions of Minnesota, West Virginia, the Gulf and Oregon are not entitled to representation in this body, they not having forwarded reports and liquidated indebtedness to the Commandery-in-Chief.

Your committee respectfully reports that it finds present and entitled to seats in the Encampment one hundred and fifteen officers and delegates.

Your committee further reports that the Division of Minnesota, of which Brother J. E. Haycraft, of the Council-in-Chief, is a member, has not reported to the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief as required by the laws of the Order, but that Brother Haycraft is entitled to a seat in this body as an officer of the same, your committee having been assured that he is, and his Camp is, in good standing.

Your committee further reports that at the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Brother Geo. E. Cogshall was elected Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief and duly commissioned as such; that since the issuance of that commission he has been elected and commissioned Commander of the Michigan Division; that owing to the absence of the Commander-in-Chief in the military service of the United States it has become necessary for the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief to assume command of this body; that Brother Cogshall has presented to the Adjutant-General his resignation as Commander of the Michigan Division, with the request that it be immediately tendered to this body for acceptance.

FRED E. BOLTON, *Chairman.*

W. T. CHURCH.

H. V. SPEELMAN.

THOS. J. HANNON.

GEO. E. COX.

E. C. PARKINSON.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Credentials. What is your pleasure in regard to it?

Geo. B. Abbott of Illinois: Senior Vice-Commander, I move the report be accepted.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

RESIGNATION OF COMMANDER COGSHALL OF THE MICHIGAN DIVISION.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The resignation of the Commander of the Michigan Division will be read by the Adjutant-General.

The Adjutant-General read the resignation of Commander Cogshall of the Michigan Division, as follows: —

OMAHA, Sept. 12, 1898.

To the Commandery-in-Chief.

Brothers: I hereby tender my resignation as Commander of the Michigan Division, to take effect at once.

(Signed) GEO. E. COGSHALL.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Senior Vice-Commander, I move that the resignation be accepted.

T. C. Harter of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion. The motion was agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES DEFERRED.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the next business in order is the appointment of committees. Your presiding officer has not had time to make a careful selection of members to serve on the various committees as yet, and would like a little further time before announcing the same. What is your further pleasure?

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Senior Vice-Commander, I move we now take a recess until two o'clock this afternoon.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Senior Vice-Commander, I move as an amendment to that motion that we take recess until three o'clock P.M.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I second the amendment.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, with the consent of my second I will accept the amendment to my motion.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, as the supporter of Brother Archer's motion I will accept the amendment.

PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Senior Vice-Commander, before that motion is put I have a preliminary report from the Council-in-Chief which I am instructed to present at this time. It is important that the report should be heard and acted upon before we take recess.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion to take recess until 3 o'clock has been seconded, and the report can only be heard by unanimous consent. Is consent given? The Chair hears no objection. The Adjutant-General will read the report of the Council-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General read the preliminary report from the Council-in-Chief as follows : —

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS, }
 COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A. }
 CREIGHTON HALL, }

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 12, 1898.

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Commandery-in-Chief S. V., U.S.A.

Brothers: The Council-in-Chief herewith begs leave to present a preliminary report for your consideration embodying the following recommendation which we report favorably for your action, as the Council-in-Chief adopted the same.

That beginning with the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, and those Encampments succeeding or following annually, the report of or printed minutes or Journal of Proceedings of said Encampments shall be and they are hereby ordered, upon the adoption of this report, to be printed without quoting the remarks or addresses of members of the Encampment upon any question or motion.

That the Journal of Proceedings when printed, shall, and it is hereby ordered, contain all motions and action thereon; Officers' and Committees' reports; Encampment roll, and all Opinions, Decisions, and action of the Commandery-in-Chief.

That 1,000 copies of the Journal of Proceedings be printed annually and distributed among the delegates and members of the Encampment and to the membership of the Order upon receipt of the proper amount of postage.

Respectfully submitted,

H. H. HAMMER,
 JAMES W. NOEL,
 J. E. HAYCRAFT,
 C. BORIN,
 GEO. E. COGSHALL,

Council-in-Chief.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Senior Vice-Commander, on behalf of the Council-in-Chief I move the adoption of the report just read.

James Lidders of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I would like to inquire of the Council-in-Chief when this order recommended in this report takes effect?

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, it is the intention that it shall take effect at this meeting.

The motion was agreed to.

ROLL CALL:

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Senior Vice-Commander, I rise to a question of inquiry. Is it proper for us to proceed with the transaction of any business without having at least completed our first roll call?

The Senior Vice-Commander: I think that is really a question of order. The roll should have been called before. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the members of this Encampment as constituted by the report of the Credential Committee.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of members reported entitled to seats and votes by the Committee on Credentials.

(For those members answering present see roll call No. 1.)

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any brothers present entitled to seats and votes in this Encampment whose names have not

been called? If so, they will report to the Adjutant-General's desk and have the roll corrected by the addition of their names.

The question is on the motion to take recess until 3 o'clock P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOCAL COMMITTEE.

F. J. Coates of Nebraska: Senior Vice-Commander, I merely want to call attention to the fact that if this motion prevails the trip to the Exposition which has been provided for your entertainment by the Local Committee cannot take place this afternoon. It is probably not necessary for me to apologize for the state of the weather. We are not at all responsible for the rain that has fallen in Omaha for the last week. You have no doubt been disappointed to see no decorations here, in the first place. It has been a disappointment to us as well as to you. I know of one firm in this city alone that contracted for three hundred dollars' worth of bunting and flags to be used on this occasion, and none of it could be put out on account of the weather. The rain spoiled our picnic yesterday, and will likely interfere with our trip to the Exposition this afternoon, but tonight at 8 o'clock there will be an initiation at the Temple of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, and every member of the Commandery-in-Chief is invited to go out and see the candidates initiated into that order. It is similar to the Veiled Prophets of St. Louis; and when I tell you that the largest building in the city of Omaha is devoted exclusively to the use of this order you will know that it is something worth seeing. If you see fit to adjourn over tomorrow, or any other time, we will be glad to take you out to the Exposition; but if you want to stick to business, the Local Committee does not wish to interfere with your desires in that particular.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there are no further remarks, the question is on taking recess until 3 o'clock this afternoon. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is agreed to and the Encampment takes recess until 3 o'clock P.M.

MONDAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 o'clock.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers will please come to order. The Inspector-General will ascertain if all present are entitled to remain.

The Inspector-General: Commander, all present are entitled to remain.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the first business this afternoon will be the appointment of the various committees. The standing committees will be as follows: —

*On Constitution, Rules and Regulations.*Edward K. Gould of Maine, *Chairman.*

Edward H. Areher of Ohio,	R. D. Houlihan of Illinois,
W. W. Bisby of Iowa,	E. W. Estes of New York.

*Committee on Resolutions.*Harlan Thomas of Colorado, *Chairman.*

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania,	Chas. L. Pierce of California,
J. O. Damm of Missouri,	F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin.

Committee on Ritual.

There is already a Committee on Ritual which has been in existence for a year, and it will be continued as heretofore constituted. It consists of: —

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts, *Chairman.*

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas,	C. J. Tisdell of Illinois.
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Press Committee.

I will appoint as a Press Committee for the *World-Herald* of this city,

John Redmond of Kansas,	P. A. Barrows of Nebraska.
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And for the *Omaha Bee*,

L. W. Friedman of Alabama,	F. P. Corriek of Nebraska.
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*Committee on Officers' Reports, etc.*Past Commander-in-Chief, George B. Abbott of Illinois, *Chairman.*

Past Commander-in-Chief, Joseph B. Maecabe of Massachusetts,

Past Commander-in-Chief, William E. Bundy of Ohio,

Past Commander-in-Chief, William H. Russell of Kansas.

The place of the fifth member of this committee I will leave to be filled by the committee itself in case another Past Commander-in-Chief should be in attendance upon the Convention. If not, they can fill it with whomever they may select.

What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

COMMITTEE TO GREET LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move the appointment of a committee of five to extend the greetings of the Commandery-in-Chief to the Ladies' Aid Society.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: I will appoint the following brothers to serve on that committee: —

H. V. Speelman of Ohio, *Chairman.*

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin,	E. R. Campbell of Maryland,
R. Loebenstein of Missouri,	L. W. Kennedy of Colorado.

REPORT OF SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

If there is nothing further of a preliminary nature to come up at this time, we will proceed with the reports of officers. I will ask the Adjutant-General if there is a report here from the Commander-in-Chief?

The Adjutant-General: No, Senior Vice-Commander, the matters that would naturally come in the report of the Commander-in-Chief are incorporated in the Adjutant-General's report.

REPORT OF SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Then the report of the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief is next in order.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief George E. Cogshall submitted and read the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Brothers: One year ago you honored me by placing me in the chair of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, an honor which I appreciate and which I shall ever remember.

During the year very little work has been assigned to my department, but such as has been I have tried to perform to the best of my ability. I was ordered by the Commander-in-Chief to inspect the Illinois Division, which work I performed. In Michigan I have not been idle. When war was declared, Michigan started out to raise a regiment of Sons of Veterans, but the State would not allow us to put in so many men; but on first call allowed us one company which was mustered in as Co. L, 33d Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was heard from before Santiago de Cuba where some of our brave brothers fell while fighting for this grand and glorious country of ours. At the second call we were again asked to put in another company to fill Michigan's quota, which we did, being Co. B, 35th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

In connection with this matter, I wish to call the Commandery-in-Chief's attention to the noble and heroic work of our brother, Past Col. Franklin D. Eddy. He was not able to go himself because he could not pass the medical examination. Brother Eddy conceived and worked out the plans of raising the companies; in this work Brother Eddy gave up his own business, and spent three weeks of his time. As it was purely a labor of love for the Order and country, and no reward possible, it would please Michigan very much if this Encampment should see fit to vote him a medal of honor for his hard work and for the splendid way in which this work has been performed. It has been my pleasure to be a helpmate to Brother Eddy in this work, but to him belongs the credit.

While the Commander-in-Chief has been absent doing valiant service for his country, the work of the Commandery-in-Chief has seemed to move on without a hitch, and I have not been called upon for any service.

Thanking you for the honor conferred upon me, I remain,

Yours in F., C. and L.,

GEO. E. COGSALL,
Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report of the Senior Vice-Commander will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports, under the rule. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it will be so referred. The next in order is the report of the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, James W. Noel of Indiana, submitted and read the following report: —

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

I have the honor to present herewith my report as Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., as follows: —

I have participated in the work of the Council-in-Chief as member *ex officio* thereof, the report of which will contain all the work done by that body.

Beyond the participation in the work of the Council the duties of my office have not been laborious and have consisted only of such incidental matters pertaining to the Order and its welfare as have made themselves apparent to one interested in its prosperity.

I have to report that so far as I have observed, the work of the Order has during the past year been exceedingly practical, and the brothers have heroically and unswervingly offered themselves to the service of their country which our fathers preserved. Large numbers of the rank and file of the Order were mustered into the volunteer army of the United States. Many more offered themselves to the Governors of their respective States and earnestly sought admission to the ranks, and many of the most efficient officers of the volunteer army are men who received their first military knowledge and the spirit of consecration to country in the Camps of Sons of Veterans.

The Division of Indiana was alive to the great emergency and it was my pleasure to wait upon the Governor of Indiana in company with Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin, Commander Thompson, and many other distinguished Sons of Veterans from Indiana, and to offer him, in the name of the Order, twenty-one full companies of picked men, sons of soldiers, who were ready at a moment's notice to be mustered into service. It was earnestly insisted that a full regiment be mustered in and officered as a Sons of Veterans Regiment, and there was much local and State enthusiasm over the plan, but the Governor could not find it possible to so largely represent the Order, and only six of the companies were mustered in separately and without a regimental organization. Many Sons of Veterans whose companies were unsuccessful in being admitted, joined the ranks of other companies and thus secured service in the army.

The work our Order has done in the inculcation of patriotism has shown itself in the outburst of national spirit which attended the declaration of war and the events leading up thereto. Camps of Sons of Veterans have been the nucleus of many companies of volunteer sol-

diers and the military experience acquired in the work of the Order has qualified many men for official positions in the command of the army. There is yet great work for the Nation to accomplish which will require the loftiest courage and most earnest patriotism. We are entering a new career of national energy and usefulness, and the fact of our national prowess should not permit our ardor to abate the work for which it was organized. The remnant of the Grand Army is still with us and the years make the old soldier more and more the worthy object of our generous care. Memorial Day has taken on a new significance, and it becomes more and more our duty to let the world know that service of country is glorious, and that sacrifice at the altar of country and humanity is never forgotten. Times of great national excitement and the course of events may modify our purposes and somewhat change our course, but the mission of the Order will grow to be larger and larger.

Fraternally submitted,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report of the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports. The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered. Next in order is the report of the Adjutant-General.

Adjutant-General Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts, submitted and read the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

In presenting for your consideration my report as Adjutant-General, I am mindful of the fact that certain matters touched upon, deal with a portion of the work of the administration that is usually reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

Nearly all of the brothers here assembled are aware of the fact that our Commander-in-Chief, Major Charles K. Darling, responded to the first call for volunteers and is now in the service with his regiment, the Sixth Massachusetts. At the time of preparing this report, Major Darling is in Porto Rieo, and I am advised by him that he will be unable to attend the Encampment.

Under these conditions I assume it to be proper to set forth in a humble way a brief review of the work of the administration; and it is with a full appreciation of my inability to deal with the subject as brilliantly as it would be handled by our honored leader, that I assume this work.

This Encampment meets at a most auspicious time. The nation is rejoicing in the deeds of devotion and the heroic valor of her patriotic soldiers and sailors. Great victories have been won, and new honors achieved for the republic. Like the men of 1861-'65, the boys of '98 have carried our flag to the fore of battle, have preserved its folds unsullied, and have added new lustre to the starry banner that stands for freedom and humanity.

Many of our brother members share in the honor of having offered their lives in the service of the country. We are fortunate in meeting at a time when the patriotism of the people is so thoroughly awake. We gather together from all sections of a united country, a country that, if it ever had any sectional lines, now knows no North, no South, no East, no West. The representatives of the several Divisions from Maine to Washington can all feel with a just pride peculiar satisfaction that this organization, through its gallant members, has proven the value of the patriotic lessons taught in the Camp room, that patriotism, and love of country, upon which are so firmly imbedded the fundamental principles of our Order.

While sharing in common with all of the loyal people the joy that our government has been so victorious, we are reminded that we have also assembled to contemplate the best interests of the Order, to legislate for its advantages, to extend its influence and its prestige. May the results of our deliberations prove our allegiance to this grand organization, and the wisdom of our actions assure a bright and prosperous future.

HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters were established at Room 947, Tremont Building, Boston, Mass., soon after the election of the Commander-in-Chief, and upon the arrival of the headquarters furniture, September 25, the office was formally opened for the transaction of business.

The routine work has received prompt attention, and was conducted under the personal attention of the Commander-in-Chief, who visited the headquarters each day until he entered the service.

The bond of the Commander-in-Chief was filed with and accepted by the Council-in-Chief. The bond of the Adjutant-General was delivered to the Commander-in-Chief.

The various books of records have received proper attention and contain all of the facts belonging thereto.

DECISIONS.

The Commander-in-Chief has rendered twenty-eight official decisions, which are annexed to this report.

DIGEST OF DECISIONS, ETC.

The publication of a Blue Book, containing a codification of Decisions and Opinions of Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past Judge Advocate-Generals, for various reasons having been deferred from time to time, has made much unnecessary work for the officials of the past few years, and some authentic source of information, containing the interpretation of the law of the Order was, as it has been, an imperative need. Judge Advocate-General Edward K. Gould for many years has been a careful student on the law of the Order. Possessed of a natural ability, combined with legal training, he had prepared a most excellent tabulation of the important decisions and opinions that have been rendered by past officers and accepted by the Commandery-in-Chief. This work was submitted to the Commander-in-Chief and at

once he became impressed with its true value. Arrangements were made with the Judge Advocate-General for publishing his "Digest," and bearing the indorsement of the Commander-in-Chief, the book was placed before the members through the proper channels. The work of Brother Gould has received many commendations and has certainly proved of great advantage to the Order.

In my opinion, and I feel I speak the sentiments of many brothers, including the Commander-in-Chief, this Encampment should take such action as will lead to the official adoption of the "Digest of Decisions and Opinions."

It should be mentioned that Brother Gould has performed this important service without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief.

CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The Constitution, Rules and Regulations has apparently filled all of the requirements of the Order since its adoption in 1894. Very few, if any, changes have been suggested since that time, and those of a minor nature.

The committee authorized by the last Encampment to draft a new eligibility clause have been appointed and will report to this Encampment. Along the line of the suggestion of Past Commander-in-Chief Rake, the insertion of a brief historical sketch of the Order would be an appropriate addition. It is respectfully suggested that a committee be designated to prepare the same, to serve without expense to the Commandery.

RITUAL.

In accordance with the vote of the last Encampment a committee of three was appointed to "revise and improve our ritual so that it shall possess the dramatic action and force of which it is now devoid."

This committee will report to the Encampment.

DIVISIONS.

The standing of the several Divisions as a whole has somewhat improved. The officers as a rule are competent and display an interest in their work.

As in the past, the one great fault is the dilatory methods pursued in forwarding the quarterly reports. Camps are not entirely to blame, if the Division Commander is negligent in demanding the reports. Blanks should be forwarded to Camps at least two weeks before the close of a quarter, and the reports called for by headquarters promptly within the time specified by the C., R. and R. No reasonable excuse for delay could then exist. In some few cases we have received reports from Divisions three months after the close of the quarter. Commanders who are as neglectful as this are not competent to command their Divisions.

COURTS-MARTIAL.

The Commander-in-Chief has been called upon to decide but one courts-martial case. Two other instances exist where blanks have

reached these headquarters, but in each case for reasons of their defectiveness have been returned to be properly submitted.

BONDS.

The bonds of Division Commanders have been submitted, but because of a misunderstanding relative to affixing the required revenue stamp several bonds have been returned. It is only a matter of a little delay for compliance with the law before all bonds will be on file.

The question of bonds is an important one, and it would seem that a more satisfactory state of affairs would exist if the Commandery provides for the acceptance of surety bonds, the costs of which could consistently be borne by the Commandery, Division or Camp, as the case may be.

COMMITTEES.

The several special committees provided for by the last Encampment have been appointed. Reports will undoubtedly be submitted for the information of the delegates.

RELATIONS WITH THE G. A. R.

Our relations with the Grand Army of the Republic have been of a most agreeable nature. The Commander-in-Chief has been privileged to become intimately acquainted with Commander-in-Chief J. P. S. Gobin, and has been in company with that gallant soldier on a number of occasions, notably a visit with him to the city of Charleston, S.C., where he was shown many courtesies by the Confederate veterans, and especial kindnesses at the hands of Commander-in-Chief Smyth of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

General Gobin has at all times been willing to advance the interests of our organization wherever and whenever the opportunity was presented.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the past year we have endeavored to increase the membership of the Order, and have received excellent support from a majority of the Divisions, the work of Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan being especially commendable.

The causes that have led to the fluctuations in gains by muster and loss by suspension in our membership, have been the cause for very serious thought on the part of all who have a deep interest in the welfare of the Order.

At the outset the administration became convinced that whatever the causes, there was but one remedy that was applicable, and that was to get in close touch with Division officers, past officers and influential members, to bespeak their coöperation, to arouse interest in their own and neighboring localities, and to secure their individual efforts to increase the standing. For this purpose a large number of letters were sent out, and the quarterly reports following the same would indicate that satisfactory responses had been made. Commencing with the first quarterly returns, September, 1897, it was found that reports for the previous quarter had been incorrect in many cases, made so by changes

that were necessary to render a proper accounting of membership to both National and Division headquarters. The reports up to and including that of the quarter ending March 31, 1898, resulted in a net gain of 3,009 members, a gain a trifle less than ten per cent. This was the first time for a number of years gains were shown for three successive quarters, and was very encouraging.

The June quarter has been less successful, directly due to two causes, as this particular quarter has invariably been one of the best of the year.

First, the outbreak of the war with Spain called forth a great number of the most interested Camp workers; it occupied the mind of all members; Camp work and the work of recruiting took the more proper form of recruiting for the country. It should be mentioned here that from advices received we are led to believe that in every Division an effort was made to have the authorities accept the services of a Sons of Veterans regiment, for which the volunteers were ready to respond when services were called for.

Secondly, to secure reports in time to prepare them for presentation to this Encampment, it was necessary to call upon the Division Commanders to submit the same at an earlier date than on any previous quarter. A needless amount of neglect shown by Camps failing to report caused unusually large suspensions, but we are assured that the current quarter will find these Camps and members reinstated. The number in good standing, June 30, 1897, was 1,178 Camps, 31,742 members; June 30, 1898, 1,135 Camps, 32,617 members. A net gain for the year of 875 members.

The future may bring about many changes in the lines upon which we are at present constituted. There are many who think that changes are necessary, and many brothers are of the opinion that we should become more of a historical society, dropping our semi-military characteristics. Legislation to this effect will probably be proposed at no distant date, but whatever changes are made, to keep the membership at a point where it properly belongs, will require, as it has in the past, the selection of competent Camp officers, for in the Camps is the strength of our Order, and upon them individually rests the responsibility for progress or retrogression.

SONS OF VETERANS VOLUNTEERS.

True to the teachings of the Order, the Sons of Veterans have played no inconspicuous part in responding to the call for volunteers in the war with Spain. At this time it is impossible to give the exact numbers that represent our organization, but it can be safely estimated that there will be found a larger percentage of Sons of Veterans in the service, than any other organized body or society. It would be unfair to attempt to compare the Divisions in this respect, but it is hoped that at an early date, data will have been secured from each Camp showing the number of enlistments among the members.

Three companies composed exclusively of Sons of Veterans are known: Co. L, 33d Michigan, was in the battle at Siboney July 1 and

performed gallant service. Michigan also raised another company for the 35th regiment and was ready for service. Minnesota furnished Co. L of the 12th regiment, composed of members of St. Paul Camp No. 1, in response to the first call. This company has been encamped at Chickamauga since that time.

As has been stated heretofore, all over the country the Order was active, and had a third or fourth call been made it is probable that we should have been honored with regiments from the several States, but while the opportunity was lacking, it was a practical demonstration that the Sons of Veterans are worthy of their sires, and the patriotic principles of the Order have been well exemplified in the loyalty of its members.

It is no injustice to those who were not fortunate enough to have entered the service to mention the following brothers as commissioned officers of volunteers: —

Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling, Major Sixth Massachusetts.
Past Division Commander Charles W. Abbott, Jr., Colonel First Rhode Island.

Past Division Commander Thomas Z. Morrow, Jr., Captain First Kentucky.

Past Division Commander Frank L. Greene, Captain First Vermont.

Past Division Commander A. L. Sorter, Jr., Captain Fifty-second Iowa.

Past Division Commander Manley Wren, Captain Fifth Missouri.

Past Division Commander E. R. Carter, First Lieutenant Sixth Tennessee.

Past Inspector-General Arthur B. Spink, Lieutenant First Rhode Island.

There are undoubtedly many more of our brothers among the officers, but those mentioned above have been made known to headquarters, and are reported to this Encampment for your information.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

The Commander-in-Chief has been associated with a set of capable officers, and has expressed to me his satisfaction in this respect. Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief George E. Cogshall, Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief James W. Noel, the Council-in-Chief, Brothers Hammer, Borin and Haycraft, have at all times rendered whatever service assigned them in a most competent manner.

Quartermaster-General Loebenstein has conducted his department, as in the past, with the same high degree of efficiency that has rendered his services of almost inestimable value to the Order.

Inspector-General Durston, Surgeon-General Gardner and Chaplain-in-Chief Veazey have been active, and have faithfully discharged all of the duties incumbent upon them.

Judge Advocate-General Gould has rendered conspicuous service, and has proven himself to be the equal if not the superior of any of those who have honored his position in previous years.

The Adjutant-General is indebted to all of these officers for innumerable favors and deems himself fortunate in having served with them. Asst. Adjt.-Gen. Thomas J. Hannon has loyally given his time and services, and the value thereof has been fully appreciated.

DECISIONS — COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Decision I.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. I.)

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 28, 1897.

Col. CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Commander California and Hawaiian Islands Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir and Brother: The question submitted by Past Division Commander Charles C. Houck of your Division relative to the number of members in good standing in a Camp necessary to hold its charter when no proposition for surrender of the same is made, is fully answered by Opinion I. of the Judge Advocate-General, forwarded herewith. I concur in his opinion that the charter may under these circumstances be held by a quorum (*i.e.*, five members), but cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the practical application of it may be limited, and that in this particular case, the Santa Cruz Camp will realize its expectations in recruiting soon to a larger membership.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision II.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. II.)

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 28, 1897.

Col. ORANGE H. COOK,
Commander Mass. Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir and Brother: I hand you herewith Opinion II. of the Judge Advocate-General upon the appeal of Past Captain Charles F. Perkins of Camp No. 8, Division of Massachusetts, in the matter of his trial and sentence by courts-martial. The ground of the appeal and the reasons for not sustaining the same are set forth at length in the Opinion, in which I fully concur. The appeal is therefore dismissed; the record and proceedings of the court are declared regular; your decision thereon affirmed and you will take such further action as devolves upon you to carry the sentence into effect.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision III.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. III.)

BOSTON, Nov 1, 1897.

Col. ORANGE H. COOK,
Commander Mass. Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Melrose, Mass.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion III. of the Judge Advocate-General, upon the question submitted by Camp 37 of your Division, relative to the manner in which a candidate may, after having received the degrees of Friendship and Charity, and then removed beyond the limits of his Camp, receive the degree of Loyalty from a Camp located at his new place of residence. The opinion of the Judge Advocate-General holding that the difficulty cannot be met by either dispensation or transfer, is approved, but the Camp may, if it so desires, surrender its jurisdiction over the recruit according to the method therein indicated.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision IV. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. IV.)

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 8, 1897.

Col. ORANGE H. COOK,
Commander Massachusetts Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Melrose, Mass.

Dear Sir and Brother: The opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, that a brother while under suspension from the Order by sentence of courts-martial cannot, during such period of suspension, be tried for another offence, is approved, and you will see that the brothers of Camp 8, by whom the inquiry is submitted, are so informed.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision V.

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 26, 1897.

Col. CHARLES C. TOWNSEND,
Commander Wisconsin Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Benton, Wis.

My Dear Commander: I am in receipt of your inquiry with copy of discharge of Charles Shead, a mechanic in the employ of the Quartermaster's Department, which reads as follows:—

"This is to certify that the bearer, Chas. Shead, has been employed in the Q.M. Department under my direction, and has been honorably discharged this 31st day of March, 1865.

JOHN GODFREY,"
Capt. & A.Q.M."

In view of several previous Decisions and Opinions, notably Opinion V. of Judge Advocate-General Weeks, Journal Tenth Annual Encampment, page 103, I am constrained to hold that the son of the said Charles Shead is not eligible to membership in our Order.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision VI.

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 26, 1897.

ALBERT SIEVIRS, JR.,
 Yonkers, N.Y.

Dear Sir and Brother: Your communication forwarded by the Captain of George B. McClellan Camp No. 74, and bearing also the endorsement of Commander Diven of the New York Division, submits for decision the following: "Can the Colonel of this Division be Captain of his Camp and Colonel of this Division at the same time?" Obviously the question upon which a ruling is sought is the one many times decided: "Can two commissions be held at the same time?" The earliest precedent, to the effect that they cannot, is, I think, to be found in Opinion XXX., Blue Book, page 27, and there is a long line of subsequent Decisions sustaining the position then taken by Commander-in-Chief Griffin. My decision must be in accord therewith.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision VII. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. V.)

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 29, 1897.

Col E. E. SCHOENING,
Commander Missouri Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 St. Louis, Mo.

My Dear Commander: The appeal of Admiral Porter Camp No. 47, Division of Missouri, from your decision that members can be suspended only by vote of a Camp, and that a quarterly report showing suspension must, in any individual case, precede a report wherein the member appears as "dropped," is sustained. The grounds on which it must now be held, that members whose dues are unpaid become "suspended" or "dropped," purely by operation of law, fully appear in Opinion V. of the Judge Advocate-General. The repeal of the legislation which rendered necessary Commander-in-Chief Russell's Decisions IX. and XXVI. (which repeal was on his own recommendation), may be found on page 132, Proceedings Fifteenth (Louisville) Encampment.

I return you Exhibits A-C 4 (13 enclosures), and have retained to file with the papers here Exhibits D (the appeal of the Camp), E (the letter stating whereon you based your decision), and the list of papers forwarded.

You will transmit to Capt. J. O. Damm, commanding Camp 47, the copies of this Decision and Opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, handed you herewith.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision VIII. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. VI.)

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 29, 1897.

Col. CHARLES W. ABBOT, Jr.,
Commander Rhode Island Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Providence, R.I.

My Dear Commander: I concur in the Opinion of the Judge Advocate-General that the case submitted by you for decision, relative to the status of a Division officer whose Camp has disbanded, but who avails himself of a transfer card, is one in which the question of due diligence may well enter to determine whether or not he has forfeited his official position.

It would appear from the statement of facts set forth in your letter and incorporated in full in the Opinion (VI.), that laches or negligence cannot be imputed to him, but on the contrary, he seems to have acted with zeal to make use of the card and thus retain his membership in the Order. In the absence, therefore, of evidence tending to show that there was inexcusable delay in so doing, I must hold that the office is not vacated and that he has lost none of his rights as a Division officer.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision IX.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. VII.)

BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 13, 1898.

Col W. P. FEDER,
Commander Kansas Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Great Bend, Kan.

My Dear Commander: Opinion VII. of the Judge Advocate-General upon the case of O. M. Lippert, who was elected Captain of Smith Semple Camp of your Division, and served nearly the full term in that capacity, or until his Camp surrendered its charter and became merged into Camp 223, is handed you herewith.

I agree with the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General that he is not, upon this statement of facts, entitled to the honors of a Past Captain. As pointed out in the opinion, this rule may and does doubtless often work a hardship upon most deserving brothers, but the express provisions of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations cannot be set aside by the Commander-in-Chief.

Yours fraternally,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision X.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. VIII.)

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 12, 1898.

Col. CHARLES C. TOWNSEND,
Commander Wisconsin Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Benton, Wis.

My Dear Commander: Returning you herewith copy of the courts-martial proceedings in the case of Brother Adolph Derusha of George D. Stanton Camp, No. 25, your Division, I am obliged to disapprove the findings and sentence because of the irregularities noted in Opinion VIII. of the Judge Advocate-General, a transcript of which I also hand you.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XI.

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 12, 1898.

Col. JESSE R. DUNGAN,
Commander New Jersey Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Somerville, N.J.

My Dear Commander: In the matter of the eligibility to membership of Fremont Tietze, which comes before me for rehearing on the petition of the Commander of the New Jersey Division:

This case was passed upon by Commander-in-Chief Rake in his Decision V., wherein it was held that Fremont Tietze had been illegally mustered into the Order, and consequently that his said muster was null and void. Upon appeal, this decision was sustained by the Commandery-in-Chief. With this as the record of the case I should ordinarily refrain from acting upon the petition for a rehearing in manner other than to grant the same, and then refer to the next Commandery-in-Chief such new evidence as was produced, together with a recommendation thereon, notwithstanding the fact that a careful examination of the proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment leads me to the conclusion that the case, when before the Commandery-in-Chief, turned largely upon irregularity in the appeal, and that the new evidence then offered, but which Commander-in-Chief Rake had not at hand when rendering his decision, was not considered. But having granted the petition for a rehearing, I find it now in evidence that Emil Tietze, father of Fremont Tietze, enlisted in Captain James M. Bell's Unattached Independent Cavalry Company of Pennsylvania, and was mustered into the ninety days State Militia June 30, 1863, and was honorably discharged Aug. 9, 1863. That the troops served under the command of Colonel Nelson A. Miles in the Department of the Susquehanna, commanded by Major-General Darius N. Couch, both of these officers holding commissions in the United States service. The members of this Company took the oath of allegiance to the United States, and the command was actually employed, under orders of Colonel Miles and General Couch, in resisting the invasion of the State of Pennsylvania by Lee's army, having been turned over to the United States authorities by the Governor of Pennsylvania for that purpose. It also appears that this Company was paid, subsisted and clothed

by the United States Government. Furthermore, it appears in evidence that a decision has been rendered by the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic holding that the men composing the Independent Troop of Cavalry, commanded by Captain James M. Bell, are eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. The official records cited have been carefully examined and found to contain all that is claimed for them.

From this new evidence and statement of facts, I am satisfied that Emil Tietze, father of Fremont Tietze, "served in the Union Army," and has an honorable discharge. I therefore declare Fremont Tietze eligible to membership in our Order, and that he should be reinstated with his past rank.

In addition to the formal petitions, abstract of new evidence and copy of argument, there are retained with the papers in the case until such time as this decision may be acted upon by the Commandery-in-Chief, the original discharge; letter from Major-General Nelson A. Miles, U.S.A., dated April 8, 1897; two letters from Major James M. Bell, U.S.A., dated Jan. 20 and Nov. 7, 1897; letter from Commander of Lieutenant S. C. Potts Post, No. 62, Department of Pennsylvania, G.A.R., dated Dec. 2, 1897, and letter of Thomas J. Stewart, Adjutant-General of the G.A.R., dated Nov. 23, 1897.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,

Adjutant-General.

Decision XII.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. IX.)

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 26, 1898.

Col. CHARLES C. TOWNSEND,

Commander Wisconsin Division, S. V., U.S.A.

Benton, Wis.

My Dear Commander: The request of George D. Stanton Camp No. 25, of your Division, for a decision upon the question whether the crime of burglary committed by a youth of the age of fifteen years, for which he was sentenced to the State Reform School, constitutes an infamous crime within the meaning of Section 1, Article V., C. R. and R., has been received and referred to the Judge Advocate-General. I hand you herewith a copy of the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, and must concur in his conclusion, that burglary, committed by persons of whatever age, is an infamous crime, and hence renders one convicted thereof ineligible to membership in our Order.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,

Adjutant-General.

Decision XIII.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. X.)

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 26, 1898.

Col. JAMES M. MATHEWS,

Commander New Jersey Division, S. V., U.S.A.,

Trenton, N. J.

My Dear Commander: A question referred to me for decision, by your predecessor, relative to a member of a disbanded Camp being entitled to a transfer card, is fully stated in Opinion X. of the Judge Advocate-General. If the brother therein referred to was in good standing at the time of the dissolution of the Camp to which he formerly belonged, you are authorized to issue to him a transfer card, which if deposited in the Camp to which he now belongs will enable him to retain his past rank.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,

Adjutant-General.

Decision XIV.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XI.)

BOSTON, MASS., April 2, 1898.

Col. LEONARD C. COUCH,
Commander Massachusetts Division, S. V., U.S.A
 Taunton, Mass.

My Dear Commander: I concur in Opinion XI. of the Judge Advocate-General, a copy of which is inclosed, that under Section 2 of Chapter V., Article VII., C, R and R., a Camp may, at its option, require of the members of its Camp Council, holding funds of the Camp, either a bond in which all members of the Council join, or a bond from each of the several members of the Council. In other words, "jointly and severally" are construed to mean "jointly or severally."

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XV.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XII.)

BOSTON, MASS., April 8, 1898.

Col. J. M. DIVEN,
Commander New York Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Elmira, N.Y.

My Dear Commander: I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General that the son of an honorably discharged soldier who enlisted under an assumed name is eligible to admission into our Order, providing proof of the relation of father and son is furnished and the reason of the apparent discrepancy in names is clearly set forth in the application.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XVI.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XIII.)

BOSTON, MASS., April 9, 1898.

Col. W. W. LAPOINT,
Commander Vermont Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Barre, Vt.

My Dear Commander: Opinion XIII., of the Judge Advocate-General, sent you herewith, states fully the question submitted by you for decision, and meets with my approval, both as to the interpretation of Section 2, Article III., page 24, C., R. and R., and the manner in which, because of alleged error in the record of proceedings of the Lyndonville Encampment, the difficulty may now best be surmounted. A Division Encampment has the power to make provision for its next meeting and failing so to do the Division Council is authorized to act. The record of the Encampment shows (erroneously it is claimed) that such provision was made, by leaving the selection of time and place to the incoming Division Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice Division Commanders. You are, under the circumstances, authorized to have these three officers select the time and place of meeting and submit their decision to the Division Council for ratification.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XVII. — (J.A.-Gen., Op. XIV.)

BOSTON, MASS., April 23, 1898.

Col. LEONARD C. COUCH,
Commander Massachusetts Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Taunton, Mass.

My Dear Commander: The question is submitted by the Captain of Lieut.-Col. Henry Merritt Camp No. 8 of Salem, whether a brother suspended by courts-martial is liable for his dues during the time he is so suspended. I hand you herewith Opinion XIV. of the Judge Advocate-General, holding that such suspended brother is liable for dues during the period of his suspension.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:
 FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XVIII. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. XV.)

BOSTON, MASS., April 23, 1898.

Col. C. V. SAVIDGE,
Commander Washington Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Olympia, Wash.

My Dear Commander: I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, that a Camp officer must be commissioned in the position to which he has been elected. If a Division Encampment has established a fee for commissions of Camp officers, and such officers decline to pay the same, the Division Commander may, after notice to the delinquent, order the officer next in rank (who has complied with the requirements fixed by the Division Encampment) to assume command of the Camp.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:
 FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XIX. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. XVI.)

BOSTON, MASS., May 31, 1898.

Col. L. C. COUCH,
Commander Massachusetts Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Taunton, Mass.

My Dear Commander: I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, that a dropped member of a Camp who has subsequently paid all arrearages, together with muster fee, and applies for an honorable discharge because of inability to be present at any meeting for muster, cannot be granted an honorable discharge until he has been remustered as a member of the Order.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:
 FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XX. — (J. A.-Gen., Op. XVII.)

BOSTON, MASS., July 6, 1898.

Col. J. W. S. DILLON,
Commander Missouri Division, S. V., U.S.A.
 Grant City, Mo.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XVII. of the Judge Advocate-General upon the resolution adopted by the Encampment of the

Missouri Division, and fully concur in his conclusion that the same is unconstitutional.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXI.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XVIII.)

BOSTON, MASS., July 6, 1898.

Col. JOHN REDMOND,
Commander Kansas Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Wichita, Kansas.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XVIII. of the Judge Advocate-General upon the various questions submitted by you in regard to Camp 127 of Leavenworth, and I fully concur in this opinion.

Yours fraternally,

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Decision XXII.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XIX.)

BOSTON, MASS., July 6, 1898.

Col. LEON L. HALL,
Commander Connecticut Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Wallingford, Conn.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XIX. of the Judge Advocate-General upon question submitted by Captain Arthur T. Bogue of Griffin A. Stedman Camp of Hartford.

I fully concur in this opinion, the obligation of membership to be the obligation in the degree of Loyalty, in accordance therewith, and that this obligation is the only one required to be administered to a recruit to legally muster him.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXIII.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XX.)

BOSTON, MASS., July 12, 1898.

Col. CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Commander Division of California and Hawaiian Islands, S. V., U.S.A.
San Francisco, Cal.

My Dear Commander: I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, which is handed you herewith, that a Past Captain joining a Camp by transfer, takes precedence as such in said Camp from the date of his admission, rather than from the date when he acquired his past honors.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXIV.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XXI.)

BOSTON, MASS., July 25, 1898.

Col. J. W. S. DILLON,
Commander Missouri Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Grant City, Mo.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XXI. of the Judge Advocate-General, upon a resolution passed by the Encampment of the

Missouri Division substituting the printed proceedings of the Encampment for the written record, and I concur with the same and also with the recommendation in regard to their certification by the Adjutant.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXV.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XXII.)

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 16, 1898.

Col. CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Commander Division of California and Hawaiian Islands, S. V., U.S.A.,
San Francisco, Cal.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XXII. of the Judge Advocate-General in which I concur. The insignia of rank of the Division Chaplain and Surgeon is that provided for the personal staff of the Division Commander, the rank strap with one bar.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXVI.—(J. A.-Gen. Op. XXIII.)

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 16, 1898.

Col. CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Commander Division of California and Hawaiian Islands, S. V., U.S.A.
San Francisco, Cal.

My Dear Commander: I hand you herewith Opinion XXIII. of the Judge Advocate-General upon the question of precedence of a Past Captain who rejoins on transfer from another Camp the one in which he attained past honors. I concur in this opinion that he takes precedence from the date of his admission on transfer, and not from the date on which he became a Past Captain.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXVII.—(J. A.-Gen. Op. XXIV.)

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 16, 1898.

Col. E. H. ARCHER,
Commander Ohio Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Columbus, O.

My Dear Commander: I return you herewith copy of the court-martial proceedings in the case of Brother William E. Teetor of William Meade Camp No. 46, your Division. I am obliged to disapprove the findings and sentence because of the irregularities noted in Opinion XXIV. of the Judge Advocate-General, a transcript of which I also hand you.

You are charged with the duty of having this Camp proceed with a new trial in which the irregularities noted in this case must be avoided.

Fraternally yours,

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

RECORDS.

The books of records are complete with the facts, that have been a portion thereof, during the past year.

QUARTERLY REPORTS.

The quarterly reports have been received from all Divisions, although much time and effort was involved in securing them from some Divisions. The collection of *per capita* tax, particularly the proper amounts for reinstatements, has been carefully observed.

I concur in and repeat the suggestion of my immediate predecessor that a decided improvement can and should be made in Form No. 37, by incorporating therein proper columns to designate the number of quarters in arrears of suspended members who become reinstated, that the tax actually due headquarters may be readily determined. When new blanks are printed this addition should be made.

FORM 49.

I would also respectfully concur in the judgment of former Adjutant-General Hammer relative to Form 49, that information concerning the appointive Division staff officers may be included in the facts required by this form.

APPLICATIONS AND CHARTERS.

Charter applications for one hundred and sixty-nine Camps have been approved. There have been mustered and reported to these headquarters one hundred and sixty-nine Camps, for which charters have been issued.

COMMISSIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

There have been promulgated five General Orders, nine Special Orders and three circulars.

A total of seventy-five commissions has been issued in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

Ancestors' records have been furnished by the War and Navy Departments through these headquarters to one hundred and thirty-four applicants.

By-Laws and Amendments to By-Laws have been approved for the following Divisions: Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Nebraska and New Jersey.

DISPENSATIONS.

There have been requested and issued eleven dispensations. The practice of granting a general dispensation, with especial privileges connected therewith, is a poor one. To grant the right to muster camps without the application for charter first being approved by the Commandery headquarters has been a general practice. We have not curtailed that right, but, in my opinion, it is not a necessity, nor does it in any way prove of advantage to Divisions. It should either be discontinued, or if not, and it is considered of any value to the Divisions, a nominal fee should be charged.

TABLES.

Annexed to this report will be found several statements in tabulated form, condensing information of interest to the Order.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS WITH QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

There has been received and turned over to the Quartermaster-General the following amounts: —

For <i>Per Capita</i> Tax	.	.	.	.	.	\$5,452 52
For Charter Fees	.	.	.	.	.	345 50
Total	.	.	.	.	.	\$5,798 02

OLD DOCUMENTS.

Among the papers turned over from preceding administrations, there was found in a large box, the contents of several compartments of the filing case. These were unassorted and badly mixed together. An examination proved the bulk of these papers to relate to inspections, quarterly reports, mustering officers' reports, old rosters, courts-martial, etc. They have been resorted, compiled as near as possible by administrations, and packed away properly labelled. The papers are of no practical value, and as all of the principal facts are to be found either in the records or printed proceedings of the National Encampments, I would respectfully suggest that the succeeding administration be authorized to make an examination of the same and destroy such of the papers as are of no value for preservation. The freight bills on this mass of accumulated data of the past is a needless expense.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

In company with the Commander-in-Chief I had the honor to attend the Encampments of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Divisions, and a great many camp-fires and public gatherings.

It was my privilege, with Judge Advocate-General Gould, to represent the Commandery at the Encampment of the Maine Division.

CONCLUSION.

I desire to express my thanks at this time to the Division Commanders and their officers with whom I have had official relations, as well as to the Commandery officers and my associates on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief. I am indebted to all for many courtesies, and the fact that the work of the past year has been marked by perfect harmony is a matter of especial pleasure and gratification. I have endeavored to serve the Order to the best of my ability, and while circumstances have involved considerably more responsibility than was anticipated, I trust my services have been such as to warrant satisfaction on the part of the delegates who honored the Commander-in-Chief with a unanimous election one year ago, and will have proven to merit the approval of Commander-in-Chief Darling, who, in response to the call of duty, was obliged to leave for the past few months the affairs of the Order in less experienced hands than his own.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

FRED E. BOLTON, *Adjutant-General*.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Accompanying Adjutant-General's Report.



ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING, SEPT. 30, 1897.

<

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report	Camps.		Members.	
	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.
By muster-in	40	2,252	40	2,252
By transfer	63	63	63	63
By reinstatement	76	1,723	76	1,723
Total gain	179	4,038	179	4,038
Aggregate	1,294	35,810	1,294	35,810
Loss.	6		6	
By disbanded	59	59	59	59
By death	39	39	39	39
By honorable discharge	81	81	81	81
By transfer	70	70	70	70
By suspension	100	3,647	100	3,647
Total loss	249	4,068	249	4,068
Number remaining in good standing Sept. 30, 1897	1,188	31,914	1,188	31,914

Number members dropped	Camps.		Members.	
	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.
Number members dropped	40	2,252	40	2,252
per capita tax is payable	40	2,252	40	2,252
Amount received for per capita tax	\$1,313.35		\$1,313.35	
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters	4,056.59		4,056.59	
Cash on hand in Camps	33,036.88		33,036.88	
Expenditure in charity, as per Q. M.-Sergeant's reports	2,640.40		2,640.40	
Number of members or their families relieved	74		74	
Number of veterans or their families relieved	8		8	

TABLE No. 2.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING DEC. 31, 1897.

DIVISION.	NO. IN GOOD STANDING AT DATE OF LAST REPORT		GAIN.				AGGREGATE				LOSSES.				NO. IN GOOD STANDING.				Amount received <i>per capita</i> Tax.		Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Expended in charity, as per Quarterly Reports.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.							
	Camps.	Members.	BY MUSTER IN.		BY RE-STATEMENT.		TOTAL GAIN.		Camps.	Members.	By Death.	By Transfer.	BY SUSPENSION.		Camps.	Members.	By Dishon. Discharge.	TOTAL LOSS.	Camps.	Members.					No. Members Dropped.	Camps.	Members.	No. mustered during Quarter on which <i>no per capita</i> Tax is due.			
			Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.					Members.	Camps.															Members.	Camps.	
Alabama and Tennessee.	19	325	12	4	1	21	1	37	20	362	1	5	2	49	18	307	5	1	\$13 34	260 00	60 06										
California and H.I.	8	245	39	1	2	29	3	58	12	303	2	3	1	53	12	126	15	21	13 86	13 87	53 81										
Colorado	27	751	15	1	1	89	9	100	27	776	2	7	1	63	26	716	15		28 92	155 80	155 80	20 00	2								
Connecticut	10	134	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	134	9	1	1	61	9	125			57 06	756 85	756 85	20 00	2								
Gulf	79	2006	4	204	8	2	47	6	259	85	2265	2	4	61	68	85	2197	4	107	87 96	718 50	36 56									
Illinois	57	1160	2	11	5	9	7	212	62	1572	1	1	4	130	58	1442	2	38	66 12	2678 75	172 04	23 00									
Indiana	27	751	15	1	1	210	9	238	66	1390	1	1	5	135	61	1453			59 60	236 65	24 62	6 50									
Iowa	70	1416	1	72	15	3	27	4	114	14	1530	1	3	12	239	12	286	1	13	62 26	694 26	34 17									
Kansas	15	310	7	2	24	1	123	51	1555	4	3	3	1	69	108	50	1447	1	30	57 64	1350 30	16 00									
Kentucky	50	1431	97	2	1	7	1	54	25	618	1	1	1	207	25	24	4359	1	30	174 80	1219 11	159 88	15 00	2							
Maine	24	464	1	1	1	1	1	1	270	4518	1	5	2	2	1378	14	4	6	98 68	1219 11	7184 68	201 16	10	13							
Maryland	135	4248	1	11	1	36	8	254	65	1566	4	183	4	168	61	1375	14	128	56 68	98 43	253 08	35 15									
Massachusetts	21	1212	1	2	1	153	9	232	37	951	1	2	3	103	107	34	844	1	21	45 52	46 49	241 53	20 00								
Michigan	28	719	1	74	5	1	1	1	32	876	1	22	3	73	23	498	1	17	21 54	37 20	181 41	5 00	4								
Minnesota	23	857	1	23	1	63	2	27	3	144	23	48	3	24	122	19	571	2	45	21 54	165 77	695 18	17 00	1							
Missouri	25	474	1	25	1	1	1	2	68	23	653	3	54	3	24	29	498	2	45	31 72	33 68	1114 15	67 82	4							
Nebraska	20	585	2	20	1	1	1	1	69	26	792	2	2	2	25	26	764	1	17	147 80	378 97	1821 62	5 1								
New Hampshire	25	723	1	25	2	1	1	1	560	107	3622	2	34	5	8	101	3351	6	271	37 04	378 97	1821 62	5 1								
New Jersey	89	3622	1	89	1	1	1	1	81	1929	3	3	9	260	72	1682	3	42	7 04	132 63	1504 84	198 08									
New York	65	1536	2	65	1	243	16	377	81	1929	3	3	9	260	72	1682	3	42	7 04	132 63	1504 84	198 08									
Ohio	147	593	3	57	1	1	1	1	92	150	636	1	7	2	21	335	1570	3	51	248 04	431 48	10536 57	1836 35	17	3						
Oregon	6	85	3	6	1	1	1	1	63	150	636	1	7	2	21	335	1570	3	51	248 04	431 48	10536 57	1836 35	17	3						
Pennsylvania	14	383	3	14	1	1	1	1	11	18	292	1	13	6	89	12	203	3	48	13 76	23 34	300 70	4 20								
Rhode Island	13	211	3	13	1	1	1	1	5	18	292	1	13	6	89	12	203	3	48	13 76	23 34	300 70	4 20								
South Dakota	17	377	2	17	1	2	43	2	60	36	871	42	1	6	2	36	820	41	36	48 88	372 37	48 88	372 37								
Vermont	34	811	1	34	7	129	7	153	24	530	1	1	5	3	113	20	421	4	119	20 00	40 07	161 81	7 50								
Washington	11	1	23	1	1	1	1	1	12	241	5	3	1	2	70	3	236		11 04	32 95	212 09	312 09	7 50								
West Virginia	31	677	27	1	1	1	1	1	82	32	759	3	1	2	70	3	236		11 04	32 95	212 09	312 09	7 50								
Wisconsin	21	677	27	1	1	1	1	1	82	32	759	3	1	2	70	3	236		11 04	32 95	212 09	312 09	7 50								
Totals.	1188	31914	30	2312	151	76	1395	106	4358	1294	36272	10	151	38	86	117	65	2760	76	3152	1218	33120	155	30	625	\$1412 71	\$3437 29	\$38912 19	\$4362 03	52	18

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report				Camps. Members.			
GAIN.				Camps. Members.			
By muster-in	30	2,312		30	2,312		
By transfer		151			151		
By reinstatement	76	1,895		76	1,895		
Total Gain				106	4,358		
Aggregate				Camps. Members.			
LOSS.				Camps. Members.			
By disbanded	10	151		10	151		
By death		38			38		
By honorable discharge		86			86		
By transfer		117			117		
By suspension	66	2,760		66	2,760		
Total loss				76	3,152		
Aggregate				Camps. Members.			
Number remaining in good standing Dec. 31, 1897				Camps. Members.			
Number members dropped				Camps. Members.			
Number mustered during quarter, on which no <i>per capita</i> tax is payable				Camps. Members.			
Amount received for <i>per capita</i> tax				Camps. Members.			
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters				Camps. Members.			
Cash on hand in Camps				Camps. Members.			
Expended in charity, as per Q.M.-Sergeants' reports				Camps. Members.			
Number of members or their families relieved				Camps. Members.			
Number of veterans or their families relieved				Camps. Members.			

TABLE No. 3.

ADJUTANT-GENERALS CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 1898.

DIVISION.

NO. IN GOOD STANDING AT DATE OF LAST REPORT	GAIN.				AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.						NO. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. mustered during quarter on which tax is due.		Amount received per capita Tax.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in charity, as per Quartermaster-Sergeants' Reports.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.	
	BY MUSTER IN.		By Transfer.	BY REIN-STATEMENT.		TOTAL GAIN.	BY DISBANDING.		By Death.	By Honorable Discharge.	BY SUSPENSION.		By Discharge.	TOTAL LOSS.		Camps.							Members.
	Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.			Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.									Camps.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	18	307	12	4	1	15	1	31	19	338	1	35	1	35	303	1	\$13 24	\$71 12	\$37 84
California and H.I.	12	276	2	99	3	104	1	104	14	380	1	49	1	49	12	2	10 24	81 13	62 88
Colorado	10	186	1	76	1	84	1	84	11	270	2	36	1	36	9	2	8 64	27 11	104 84
Connecticut	26	714	1	42	1	48	1	48	27	102	2	36	1	36	25	2	106 52	106 52	98 69	10 65
Gulf	9	125	4	6	1	39	1	39	6	246	4	162	1	162	83	4	88 40	102	.....	.....	.....	.....
Illinois	85	2197	4	184	6	33	1	33	229	89	2426	4	162	1	162	85	85	2261	28 82
Indiana	58	1442	4	149	2	153	1	153	68	1706	4	177	1	177	64	4	71 16	71 16	.....	.....	.....	.....
Iowa	61	1253	5	161	1	166	1	166	75	1577	4	129	1	129	71	4	64 76	51 91	1351 34	1 50	.....	.....
Kansas	62	1295	6	247	15	8	109	14	371	75	1606	1	8	1	6	113	62 80	866 57	18 10	3	3	3	
Kentucky	15	298	2	46	1	48	1	48	17	347	1	84	1	84	17	2	117 92	117 92	.....	.....	.....	.....
Maine	50	1447	49	6	1	19	1	19	50	1321	1	60	1	60	50	1	117 92	117 92	.....	.....	.....	.....
Maryland	54	1447	49	6	1	17	3	81	27	574	1	11	1	11	109	1	102 76	220 94	308 63	7 25	11	11	
Massachusetts	34	428	1	163	1	72	2	253	134	4512	3	66	5	23	26	5	240	360	4152	66	2	2	
Michigan	61	1378	7	303	1	30	8	333	69	1711	1	14	3	5	3	101	4	122	65	1589	17 25	10	
Minnesota	34	844	1	74	2	75	2	83	36	927	2	116	2	6	5	2	116	3	788	21	.....	.....
Missouri	41	840	4	125	2	26	6	133	47	1002	2	95	4	2	5	5	101	42	901	44 71	.....	.....
Nebraska	25	496	3	106	5	11	1	118	29	614	1	10	1	2	76	3	58	19 56	43 91	131 90	111 43	2	
New Hampshire	19	571	2	69	1	71	1	71	21	651	1	30	1	2	7	1	23 16	96 90	1011 40	114 40	1	1	
New Jersey	26	764	1	365	1	366	1	366	27	872	1	63	1	1	1	1	140	31 24	70 46	1364 47	114 40	2	
New York	72	1662	6	168	13	181	1	181	106	2027	14	389	1	10	9	12	142 80	334 90	1364 47	114 40	24	24	
Ohio	15	69	4	77	1	81	1	81	9	146	1	146	1	2	15	2	14	16 17	146 84	146 84	29 35	.....
Oregon	5	69	4	77	10	142	1	142	137	7072	3	33	3	8	3	3	268 30	651 19	8701 00	2708 73	13	9	
Pennsylvania	150	6150	7	770	12	15	12	356	15	12	356	1	16	12	340	4	13 60	45 78	375 56	24 20	.....	.....
Rhode Island	12	941	13	2	1	11	3	33	33	15	236	1	5	1	5	1	17 77	17 77	14 66	4 45	.....	.....
South Dakota	36	890	4	78	1	15	5	97	41	917	1	53	3	3	39	41	35 40	106 88	389 21	12 50	.....	.....
Vermont	30	411	2	148	8	5	101	7	157	27	568	1	120	4	22	428	2	33	53 70	128 89	44 00	.....
Washington	12	221	2	19	1	21	1	21	14	293	1	133	1	1	1	1	11 48	53 70	334 41	4 00	.....	.....
West Virginia	30	653	1	19	1	20	1	20	39	716	1	133	1	2	22	1	21 40	53 70	334 41	4 00	.....	.....
Wisconsin	30	653	1	19	1	20	1	20	39	716	1	133	1	2	22	1	21 40	53 70	334 41	4 00	.....	.....
Totals	1218	33120	76	3637	104	66	1306	142	5047	1300	38167	15	212	42	122	87	\$1407 10	\$3454 56	\$41388 07	\$3949 81	67	27	

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.
.....	1,218	33,120	.....	.....
By muster-in	76	3,637	.....	.....
By transfer	104	1,04	.....	.....
By reinstatement	66	1,306	.....	.....
Total gain	.....	.....	142	5,047
Aggregate	.....	.....	1,360	38,167
Loss.	.....	.....	.....	.....
By disbanded	15	212	.....	.....
By death	.....	42	.....	.....
By honorable discharge	.....	122	.....	.....
By transfer	.....	87	.....	.....
By suspension	82	2,953	.....	.....
Total loss	.....	.....	97	3,416
Number remaining in good standing March 31, 1898	.....	.....	1,263	34,751

Number members dropped during quarter, on which no per capita tax is payable

Amount received for per capita tax

Cash on hand at Division Headquarters

Cash on hand in Camps

Expended in charity, as per Q.M.-Sergeants' reports

Number of members or their families relieved

Number of veterans or their families relieved

Camps. Members.

190

76

1,677

\$1,407.10

3,484.56

41,888.07

3,949.81

67

27

TABLE No. 4.
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 1898.

DIVISION.		NO. IN GOOD STANDING AT DATE OF LAST REPORT		GAIN.				AG'GREGATE		LOSSES.										NO. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. Mustered during quarter on which is due.		Amount Received Per Capita Tax		Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.		Expended in Charity, as per Quar-Master Sergeants' Reports.		No. of Members or their Families Relieved.				
				BY MUSTER IN.		BY REIN-STAT' MT.				TOTAL GAIN		BY TRANSFER		BY DIS-BANDED.		BY HONORABLE DISCHARGE.		BY TRANSFER		BY SUS-PENSION.		BY DISCHARGE.		TOTAL LOSS.										
				Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.			
Alabama and Tennessee.	18	303	2	6	9	1	13	3	1	12	1	3	37	4	49	14	286	4	2	43	10	64	83	42	157	33	\$	.....	.....	.....	
	12	531	2	20	3	1	13	3	1	15	1	8	8	3	75	16	192	4	2	43	10	64	83	42	157	33	\$	.....	.....	.....	
	25	714	1	77	1	15	1	88	26	307	2	2	38	3	78	26	760	9	1	36	31	08	156	41	757	78	24	75	1	.....			
	9	125	2	173	11	37	2	221	87	2432	1	8	533	12	532	75	1330	2	61	76	32	151	56	579	22	76	96	3	.....	.....		
	85	2261	32	34	32	13	13	45	64	1574	1	8	29	670	20	678	35	904	2	37	44	37	44	37	44	37	44	3	.....	.....		
	64	1529	34	32	34	13	13	47	71	1495	1	8	3	29	666	29	678	42	917	1	40	52	92	32	16	836	23	75	28	.....	.....	
	71	1448	13	133	4	2	35	3	172	76	1743	1	14	72	419	23	20	13	135	1	40	52	92	32	16	836	23	75	28	.....	.....	
	13	1571	17	37	1	8	1	46	50	1494	3	2	3	108	3	115	47	1379	2	78	17	80	61	77	106	59	55	10	6	.....	.....	
	50	1448	37	35	3	2	98	24	577	1	1	2	2	68	2	60	22	517	2	78	17	80	61	77	106	59	55	10	6	.....	.....	
	22	479	2	95	9	1	76	2	279	128	4431	3	29	12	3	364	22	567	45	33	57	00	237	36	10	30	3	18	9	.....	.....	
California and H. I.	426	4162	1	194	1	1	33	3	214	68	1903	3	10	373	10	378	53	1425	2	33	57	00	237	36	10	30	3	18	9	.....	.....	
	65	1539	2	151	1	7	1	22	34	821	1	15	14	310	14	313	20	508	2	30	72	7	06	177	87	8	0	.....	.....	.....	.....
	34	738	15	1	1	1	1	7	22	34	821	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	42	901	1	45	1	6	1	52	43	953	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	21	612	2	25	2	1	1	27	21	639	1	13	21	825	13	21	825	13	21	825	13	21	825	13	21	825	13	21	8	0	.....	.....
	26	393	1	53	1	5	12	5	473	3017	1	10	20	592	21	626	95	3231	30	4	109	33	92	312	17	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	107	3479	4	311	5	17	312	19	463	95	2104	1	6	43	1	68	95	2048	38	99	12	90	82	90	82	90	82	90	82	90	82	90	82	
	76	1639	2	152	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	9	146	2	23	9	106	3	633	157	7352	3	81	278	3	379	154	6973	161	3	96	279	32	377	22	13063	22	1680	80	84	10	.....	.....
	154	6719	3	513	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	12	340	1	15	2	2	2	139	12	359	2	43	4	2	47	10	312	5	5	12	72	17	17	24	35	20	45	15	00	.....	.....	
Oregon.	41	578	12	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	22	423	15	2	2	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	14	258	20	1	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	22	521	14	2	2	43	2	22	24	280	1	8	9	127	9	130	13	270	11	00	34	31	81	91	15	00	15	00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	1263	34751	25	2,885	69	34	955	59	3,409	1322	38160	9	161	32	109	69	5172	187	5543	1135	32617	273	25	667	\$ 1319	94	\$ 2876	71	\$ 35685	11	\$ 2803	24	140	24

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.	Camps.	Members.	34,751
GAIN:			
By muster in.	Camps.	Members.	1,253
By transfer.	25	2,385	
By reinstatement.	34	955	
Total gain.		59	
Aggregate.	Camps.	Members.	1,322
LOSS:			
By disbanded.	9	161	
By death.	32	32	
By honorable discharge.	109	109	
By transfer.	69	69	
By suspension.	178	5,172	
Total loss.		187	
Number remaining in good standing June 30th, 1898.		1,135	

Number members dropped.	272
Number mustered during quarter, on which no per capita tax is payable.	25
Amount received for per capita tax.	\$ 1,319.94
Cash on hand at division headquarters.	2,876.71
Cash on hand in camps.	35,685.11
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. sergeants' reports.	2,803.24
Number of members or their families relieved.	140
Number of veterans or their families relieved.	24

TABLE No. 5.
RECAPITULATIONS OF QUARTERLY REPORTS.

GAIN.	By Muster.		By Transfer.		By Reinstatement.			
	Camps.	Members.	Members.	Camps.	Members.			
September Quarter, 1897.....	40.....	2,282.....	63.....	76.....	1,723.....			
December Quarter, 1897.....	30.....	2,312.....	151.....	76.....	1,895.....			
March Quarter, 1898.....	76.....	3,637.....	104.....	66.....	1,306.....			
June Quarter, 1898.....	25.....	2,385.....	69.....	34.....	955.....			
Aggregate.....	171.....	10,616.....	387.....	252.....	5,879.....			
LOSS.	By Disbanded.		By Death.		By Suspension.		By Dish. Discharge.	
	Camps.	Members.	Members.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Members.	
September Quarter, 1897.....	6.....	59.....	81.....	70.....	100.....	3,647.....		
December Quarter, 1897.....	10.....	151.....	86.....	117.....	66.....	2,760.....		
March Quarter, 1898.....	15.....	212.....	122.....	87.....	82.....	2,953.....		
June Quarter, 1898.....	9.....	161.....	109.....	69.....	178.....	5,172.....		
Aggregate.....	40.....	583.....	398.....	343.....	426.....	14,532.....		
Number in good standing, June 30, 1897.....								
Total Gain.....				Camps. 1,178		Members. 31,742		
Aggregate.....				423		16,882		
Total Loss.....				1,601		48,624		
Number in good standing, June 30, 1898.....				466		16,007		
Number muster since June 30, 1898 (new Camps).....				1,135		32,617		
Total membership, Sept. 1, 1898.....				9		199		
				1,144		32,816		

TABLE No. 6.

Roster of Division Commanders. 1898-1899.

DIVISION.	COMMANDER.
Alabama and Tennessee	H. T. COOPER.
California and H. I.	CHARLES L. PIERCE.
Colorado	PAUL H. LIMBACH.
Connecticut	LEON L. HALL.
Gulf	A. M. BUCHMANN.
Illinois	WILLIAM T. CHURCH.
Indiana	R. S. THOMPSON.
Iowa	W. W. BISBY.
Kansas	JOHN REDMOND
Kentucky	E. H. HANSFORD.
Maine	GEORGE E. LEIGHTON.
Maryland	WILLIAM B. KING.
Massachusetts	LEONARD C. COUCH.
Michigan	GEO. E. COGSHALL.
Minnesota	M. L. CORMANY.
Missouri	J. W. S. DILLON.
Nebraska	A. H. RAWITZER.
New Hampshire	HENRY E. CHAMBERLIN.
New Jersey	JAMES M. MATHEWS.
New York	E. W. ESTES.
Ohio	EDWARD H. ARCHER.
Oregon	A. Q. DESART.
Pennsylvania	A. S. MOULTHROP.
Rhode Island	WALTER R. WILLIAMS.
South Dakota	W. A. MORRIS.
Vermont	WILLIAM W. LAPOINT.
Washington	W. T. CAVANAUGH.
West Virginia	A. R. JONES.
Wisconsin	R. M. SMITH.

TABLE No. 7.

Date and Place of holding Division Encampments.

DIVISION.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE OF MEETING.
Alabama and Tennessee....	Knoxville, Tenn.....	February 23-24.
California and H.I.....	Nevada City.....	April 19-21
Colorado	Cripple Creek.....	June 15-17.
Connecticut	New Haven.....	February 11.
Gulf	New Orleans, La.....	July 5.
Illinois	Streator	May 10-11.
Indiana.....	Columbus	May 17-19.
Iowa	Sioux City.....	June 15-16.
Kansas	Wichita	April 20-22.
Kentucky.....	Louisville	May 10-11.
Maine	Pittsfield	June 8-9.
Maryland.....	Hagerstown	June 15-16.
Massachusetts	Boston	Feb. 21-22.
Michigan	Port Huron.....	June 14-16.
Minnesota	Sauk Centre.....	June 14-16.
Missouri	Carthage	May 19-20.
Nebraska	Omaha	February 14.
New Hampshire.....	Tilton	April 20-21.
New Jersey.....	Trenton	February 17.
New York.....	Peekskill ...	June 28-30.
Ohio	Columbus	June 8-9.
Oregon.....	The Dalles	May 17.
Pennsylvania	Phillipsburg	June 14-16.
Rhode Island.....	Providence	February 1.
South Dakota.....	Canton	June 7-9.
Vermont	Barre	July 6-8.
Washington	Walla Walla.....	June 15-16.
West Virginia.....	Huntington	April 26-28.
Wisconsin	Appleton	May 24-26.

TABLE No. 8.

Showing Charter Applications Approved, Number of Applicants,
Charters Issued, Number of Members Mustered.

DIVISION.	Applications Approved.	Number of Applicants.	Charters Issued.	Number of Members Mustered.
	No. of Camps.		No. of Camps.	
California and H.I	6	146	6	146
Colorado	1	20	1	20
Connecticut	2	52	2	49
Gulf	2	34	2	35
Illinois	12	334	12	277
Indiana	6	142	7	167
Iowa	14	265	14	275
Kansas	11	286	10	271
Kentucky	1	36	3	54
Maine	2	40	2	38
Massachusetts	2	48	2	36
Maryland	5	142	5	144
Michigan	19	521	17	394
Minnesota	4	106	3	54
Missouri	5	110	5	108
Nebraska	7	133	5	111
New Hampshire	4	82	4	80
New Jersey	2	52	2	59
New York	14	385	13	324
Ohio	18	401	16	316
Oregon	3	57	5	90
Pennsylvania	14	324	16	335
South Dakota	5	98	7	112
Vermont	4	68	4	68
Washington	4	68	4	68
West Virginia	1	15	1	17
Wisconsin	1	35	1	17
Totals	169	3 968	169	3,663

GENERAL ORDERS.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,

ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 25, 1897.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 5.

I. Having been elected and installed Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., command is hereby assumed and headquarters established at Room 947, Tremont Building, Boston, Mass.

II. The following officers were elected by the Commandery-in-Chief at its Sixteenth Annual Encampment held at Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 9-11, 1897:—

Commander-in-Chief, Charles K. Darling, Boston, Mass.; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, George E. Cogshall, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, James W. Noel, Indianapolis, Ind.; Council-in-Chief, Horace H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.; Columbus Borin, Oberlin, Kas.; J. E. Hayercraft, Madelia, Minn.

III. By vote of the Commandery the next Encampment will be held at Omaha, Neb., the date to be fixed by the Council-in-Chief.

IV. The appointment of the following staff officers is hereby announced, and they will be obeyed and respected accordingly:—

Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.; Inspector-General, J. Frank Durston, Syracuse, N.Y.; Judge Advocate-General, Edward K. Gould, Rockland, Me.; Surgeon-General, Dan S. Gardner, M.D., Massillon, O.; Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. Harry L. Veazey, Harriman, Tenn.

V. All communications for the Commander-in-Chief or Adjutant-General should be addressed to these Headquarters. While it is intended that brothers of the Order should feel free at all times to communicate direct with any of

the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief upon matters affecting the welfare of the organization, yet correspondence requiring official action must be forwarded through proper channels. Such communications from camps and individual members should be forwarded through, and bear the endorsement of, their respective Division Commanders.

Reports must be sent to the Adjutant-General, and remittances for *per capita* tax or charter fees must be made in the form of New York or Boston exchange and made payable to the order of the Commander-in-Chief. All orders for supplies from Division Headquarters must be made to R. Loebenstein, Quartermaster-General, Room 7, 84 LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill., remittances for the same to be in the form of New York or Chicago exchange, payable to his order. Express or postal money orders will be received by both offices. Care should however be taken to have them made payable to the proper officer.

VI. The following changes in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations were made by the Commandery and are now of full force and effect:—

CHAPTER I., ARTICLE V.

Eligibility to Membership.

SECTION 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union army or navy during the war of 1861-65, and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who, by reason of death or honorable discharge, severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership; provided, that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has, ever borne arms against the Government of the United States of America.

CHAPTER V., ARTICLE XX.

Rituals, etc.

SECTION 2. The full use of the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership, the closing instruction by the captain in the degree of Loyalty, in presenting the insignia of the Order, and the demonstration of the secret work shall never be omitted.

VII. Inspector-General J. Frank Durston (address, White Mem. Bldg., Syracuse, N.Y.) is hereby ordered on duty, to take charge of the annual inspections.

Division Inspectors are directed to report to the above named officer for instructions.

Owing to the close proximity of the session of the Encampment to the dates specified by the C. R. & R. for the annual camp inspections, there will be no important changes at this time in the form of the inspection blank.

VIII. The Encampment provided for the appointment of a number of special committees, the members of which will be announced in later orders.

IX. The Commander-in-Chief, in beginning his term of service, desires to call attention to the fact, that whatever the ills of the organization are, however great the losses in membership have been in the past, there is in the hands of every member a simple remedy, which, once properly applied, must have its effect.

Our fathers fought for their country and its flag; they instituted and have maintained their grand fraternal organization. Discouragements were faced and hardships endured before the Grand Army of the Republic attained its growth and power. The Sons of Veterans have a splendid organization, lofty in purpose, grand in its principles. We have gained and lost, legislated and experimented; success and discouragements have been experienced, and today we must face the simple proposition of whether we shall enlarge our membership or allow it to dwindle away so that each year our ranks become smaller and smaller.

How can each member do that which will invigorate and give new life to the Order? There is only one way — work! Hard, energetic, unceasing, loyal effort to induce those worthy and eligible, to join with us in the duties of Friendship, Charity and Loyalty. This will stop the losses and gain the headway we desire. It is within the power of thousands of our brothers to bring new members into the Order, and the Commander-in-Chief calls upon the rank and file, from the brothers who have achieved the highest honors to the newest recruits in the several Camps, to work zealously for the upbuilding of the Order.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the title "Adjutant-General".

Adjutant-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. APPLICANTS.
July 16	47	Plymouth	Wisconsin	28
" 17	.....	Latrobe	Pennsylvania	28
" 19	.....	Joliet	Illinois	16
" 19	12	Belle Fourche	So. Dakota (Dis.)	16
" 19	17	Ford	Kentucky	15
" 22	6	Black River Falls	Wisconsin (Dis.)	25
" 26	.....	Webb City	Missouri	16
" 26	.....	Bolivar	New York	22
" 26	80	Corydon	Iowa (Dis.)	28
" 26	90	Osceola	" "	37
" 27	.....	Berlin Centre	Ohio	15
" 27	48	River Falls	Wisconsin	37
" 29	.....	Blanchard	Michigan	19
" 29	289	Pinkneyville	Illinois	28
" 29	.....	Everett	Pennsylvania	28
" 30	173	Oregon	Illinois	39
" 31	171	Farnam	Nebraska (Dis.)	17
Aug. 4	.....	Dexter	Maine	15
" 10	20	Vinita, Ind. Ter.	Kansas	28
" 16	15	Maquoketa	Iowa (Dis.)	19
" 17	.....	Northumberland	Pennsylvania	43
" 19	.....	Dansville	Kentucky	16
" 25	.....	East St. Louis	Illinois	21
" 25	.....	Cedar Springs	Michigan	18
" 28	18	Rocky Ford	Colorado (Dis.)	15
" 28	8	Parkland, Okla.	Kansas	18
" 31	.....	Errington	Ohio	28
Sept. 16	.....	Horseheads	New York	15
" 20	.....	Bath	" "	40

Total number of Applications for camp charters, 29; total number of Applicants, 690.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,

ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 18, 1897.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 6.

I. The following details and assignments as Assistant Inspectors-General have been made by Inspector-General J. Frank Durston, and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. Instructions have been issued, and a faithful performance of the duty assigned is expected from each brother.

Division	Asst.-Ins. General	Rank.	Address
Alabama & Tennessee	Valentine Gilb, Jr.	Past Division Commander	Birmingham, Ala.
California	Frank C. Shipley	Past Division Commander	Oakland, Cal.
Colorado	Columbus Borin	Council-in-Chief	Oberlin, Kan.
Connecticut	W. M. P. Bowen	Past Division Commander	Providence, R.I.
Gulf	Josiah Gross	Past Division Commander	New Orleans, La.
Illinois	George E. Cogshall	Sen.-Vice Commander-in-Chief	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Indiana	James W. Noel	Jun.-Vice Commander-in-Chief	Indianapolis, Ind.
Iowa	Charles C. Townsend	Division Commander	Benton, Wis.
Kansas	Wm. H. Russell	Past Commander-in-Chief	La Crosse, Kan.
Kentucky	George H. Capito	Past Division Commander	Louisville, Ky.
Maine	William A. Stevens	Past Division Commander	Boston, Mass.
Maryland	Wildun Scott	Division Commander	Milton, Pa.
Massachusetts	George E. Cox	Past Division Commander	Hartford, Conn.
Michigan	William G. Dustin	Past Division Commander	Dwight, Ill.
Minnesota	Rev. W. J. Patton	Past Division Commander	Marinette, Wis.
Missouri	E. W. Raymond	Past Division Commander	St. Louis, Mo.
Nebraska	James D. Rowen	Past Division Commander	Des Moines, Ia.
New Hampshire	Robert L. Whitcomb	Past Division Commander	Portland, Me.
New Jersey	Edward R. Campbell	Past Division Commander	Washington, D.C.
New York	Arthur B. Spink	Past Inspector-General	Providence, R.I.
Ohio	Charles J. Deckman	Past Division Commander	Malvern, O.
Oregon	R. J. Courtney	Division Commander	Okobojo, S.D.
Pennsylvania	W. Scott Oberdorf	Past Division Commander	Dansville, N.Y.
Rhode Island	Edward T. Monohan	Past Division Commander	Underhill, Vt.
South Dakota	George F. Wolz	Past Division Commander	Freemont, Neb.
Vermont	Herbert O. Bixby	Past Division Commander	Chelsea, Vt.
Washington			
West Virginia	F. W. Myers	Past Division Commander	Parkersburg, W. Va.
Wisconsin	A. T. Wilson	Division Commander	Cedar Rapids, Ia.

II. The following details have been made: Thomas J. Hannon, Dedham, Mass., as Assistant Adjutant-General. Fred J. Sanford, Chicago, Ill., as Assistant Quartermaster-General.

III. The appointment of the following committees, provided for by the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, is hereby announced:—

Committee on Ritual, Charles D. Rooney, Carter Building, 7 Water St., Boston, Mass.; W. Y. Morgan, Hutchinson, Kan.; Clark J. Tisdell, Chicago, Ill.

Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, of which Judge Marsh of Indiana is Chairman; Rev. Somerville Light, Bluffton, Ind.; William M. P. Bowen, Providence, R.I.; Rev. W. J. Patton, Marinette, Wis.; Fred A. Godcharles, Milton, Pa.; Henry H. Parker, Gloversville, N.Y.

Committee to draft new eligibility clause for the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, William H. Russell, La Crosse, Kas.; Charles T. Orner, Bloomington, Ill.

Committee to visit the next National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and extend the greetings of our Order: Hon. J. M. Thurston, Omaha, Neb.; Past Commander-in-Chief William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, O.; Past Division Commander W. H. Armstrong, Indianapolis, Ind.; Division Commander A. W. Jones, Youngstown, O.; Past Division Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

Committee on Military Reserve: E. R. Campbell, Washington, D.C.; Fred B. Morse, Elizabeth, N.J.; Walter E. Duncan, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee to investigate the advisability of establishing a Military College as a memorial to the soldiers and members of the G. A. R.: A. L. Sorter, Jr., Mason City, Ia.; George E. Cox, Hartford, Conn.; Manley Wren, Bethany, Mo.; H. O. Bixby, Chelsea, Vt.; R. M. Buckley, Louisville, Ky.

An invitation having been extended for us to join with the Grand Army of the Republic in an effort to secure National legislation furthering the interests of military instruction in the public schools, the Commander-in-Chief has detailed to take charge of the matter, Brother Charles A. Stillings, 55 Sudbury St., Boston. It is desired that Division Commanders at once select some one in their respective divisions to assist in this work, reporting names and addresses to the above-named brother, and also to Capt. Edmund L. Zalinski, U.S.A. (retired), Century Club, New York City. The Encampment endorsed, by resolutions, this proposed legislation, and while a committee was not expressly authorized, this means is taken to further the success of the project. It is hoped that brothers interested in educational or military matters, or both, may be chosen for this service.

IV. Judge Advocate-General Edward K. Gould has been authorized and directed to prepare for the use of the Order a digest of such decisions of Commanders-in-Chief and opinions of Judge Advocates-General as are now in force. This action has been taken in view of the fact that the publication of the Blue Book is at present impossible, while the imperative demand for some guide to the decisions and opinions cannot be doubted. It will be ready for distribution through the Quartermaster-General's Department by January 1, and it is believed will be found all that could be desired in the way of a digest.

Copies will be sold at a low price, but so as to afford both the Commandery-in-Chief and Divisions a fair margin of profit. While impossible to accurately gauge the edition, it would certainly aid in so doing if Division Commanders would indicate to the Quartermaster-General the number of copies they propose to order. The work should certainly find its way to every camp-room and many individual members will find it of great value.

V. Division Encampments will be held as follows :

Connecticut at New Haven	February 11,	1898
Massachusetts at Boston	February 21-22,	1898

Division Commanders will advise these headquarters at once of the dates arranged for the annual encampments of their respective Divisions.

VI. The time has come when it is necessary to make a radical change in the manner of making quarterly returns to the Commandery Headquarters. Promptness is essential and it rests largely with the camps to do their duty in this respect. Division Commanders will hereafter cause the blanks for the quarterly returns to be forwarded to each camp, at least two weeks prior to the close of the quarterly term. Captains of camps will cause said reports to be properly executed and forwarded to Division Headquarters, immediately after the close of the last meeting for the quarter. Division Commanders, upon receiving the reports, will cause them to be consolidated and make returns to the Commandery Headquarters within the time specified by the Commandery Rules and Regulations. Unwarranted tardiness is equivalent to negligence of duty and cannot be tolerated. Promptness facilitates the work of the organization and is commendable. Commanders must see to it that the blank reports reach the camps in ample time to make returns, thus furnishing no excuse for delay, and can then insist upon the same being promptly made. Captains must attend to that part of their duty that requires them to see that the quarterly reports are promptly forwarded. We shall expect a great improvement to be shown for the quarter ending December 31.

The Commanders of the several Divisions that have failed to report for the quarter ending September 30, will cause reports to be forwarded without further delay.

VII. The Commander-in-Chief has had the opportunity of meeting many members of the Grand Army of the Republic, as well as of our own Order, at campfires and other gatherings during the past few weeks. It was his privilege to represent the Sons of Veterans at the reception tendered to Commander-in-Chief Gobin and Department Commander Shaw by Lafayette Post No. 140, G.A.R., in New York City on the evening of November 19. On all occasions he has found the warmest expressions of goodwill toward our Order, and is more than ever impressed with the belief that any failure to come up to the full measure of our possibilities as an organization will be properly chargeable to lack of effort on the part of our own membership.

While unable to respond in person to all of the invitations which come to hand, yet it is his intention to allow, if possible, no opportunity to pass for making better known the principles of our Order, for bringing recruits into its ranks and strengthening the regard in which it is already held.

Officers and members can aid in this work by seeing to it that on all occasions, when the honor of an invitation is given for representation in any capacity, it meets with a prompt and favorable response.

VIII. We are advised that the proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Indianapolis, Sept. 9-11, 1897, have been edited under the supervision of Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake and Past Adjutant-General Horace H. Hammer, and are now ready for promulgation.

IX. Upon recommendation of the Division Commander, the charter of Camps 11 and 13, Kansas Division, has been revoked.

X. The members of the Order are warned against one William Crane, who claims to be a member of the Order, and, with his wife and child, plays upon the sympathy of the brothers. This same party was published in General Orders 6, series 1896. He has traveled east and west, claiming to be connected with a number of camps. He is an impostor beyond question, and when last heard from was headed toward Kansas.

XI. The passing of the current month reminds us that we are on the threshold of the new year, and at this time we wish to record the recognition and thanks of the Order to the officers and members that have rendered faithful service for the past year. We urge those about to retire from office not to forget that it is their plain duty to continue their work for the success of their camp and division. It is not only unbecoming, but a poor return for honors conferred, for past officers to become indolent members. United effort, co-operation, harmony and a willingness to render such service as past experience may qualify them to perform, is not only most desirable, but the camp and division have a right to expect and a just claim to the services of their past officers. The rank and file is the bulwark of the Order. In them we find hope and inspiration. To the members who have been loyal to their camps are we indebted for whatever improvements have been or may be shown. We call for your services; we request your support; we know that every member can do something for the advancement of the Order. Therefore, let it become a resolution with each of us to render some service that will prove of value. Bring into our ranks new recruits. Nearly every member can do this, and if all are awake to existing opportunities, we shall forge ahead to a position that will mark the cessation of losses, and establish the advancement that will bring us greater strength and greater influence as an Order. Loyalty is one of our grandest principles, and loyalty to the camp of which we are members, is one of the most practical exemplifications of this principle. We have good reasons to look to the future with pleasing hope and anticipation; along the line there comes the cheering news of

zealous work and activity. Much has been done toward improvement, and we have had brought to our notice, and hereby desire to officially commend many camps for increases in membership they have recently made. The work of Pennsylvania in this respect is extraordinary; because of this, and to demonstrate to our members what can be done when the spirit of activity is shown by the commander of a division, loyally supported by its officers and members, we mention with gratification the praiseworthy record of the following camps in that Division:—

Camp 49, Shenandoah, 147 recruits, September 29 — November 11.

169 Wilkes-Barre, 100 recruits, December 10.

Camp 54, Mahanoy City, 98 recruits, July 30.

Philadelphia consolidated, 77 recruits, November 19.

Camp 121, Milton, Pa., 64 recruits, June 24 — December 2.

Camp 34, Mt. Carmel, 20 recruits, August 13.

We want this kind of work in every section of the country. May the first of the year mark the beginning of an era of progress, extending for a period that will bring into our ranks the thousands who are eligible, and making our Order the strongest patriotic body in the land.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:



Adjutant-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows:—

Date.	No. Camp.	Location.	Division.	No. Applic'nts.
Sept. 30		Port Jervis.....	New York.....	55
Oct. 8	11	Jefferson, Okla.....	Kansas.....	41
Oct. 8	161	Mancelona.....	Michigan.....	21
Oct. 8	49	Sisseton.....	South Dakota.....	23
Oct. 11	106	East Palestine.....	Ohio.....	22
Oct. 11	80	Trufant.....	Michigan.....	28
Oct. 13		Smyrna, Del.....	Maryland.....	18
Oct. 13	65	Rock Valley.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
Oct. 13	73	Strahan.....	".....	24
Oct. 13	96	Goodell.....	".....	15
Oct. 19	316	Washington.....	Pennsylvania.....	27
Oct. 21		Delhi.....	New York.....	28
Oct. 25	57	Alba.....	Missouri.....	21
Oct. 29	75	Erin.....	New York.....	24
Nov. 1		Montrose.....	Michigan.....	25
Nov. 2	3	Milton.....	New Hampshire.....	27
Nov. 4		Ironton.....	Ohio.....	26
Nov. 8	12	Nashua.....	New Hampshire.....	20
Nov. 13	11	South Standish.....	Maine.....	17
Nov. 16	20	Dawson.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	15
Nov. 16	21	Willmar.....	Minnesota.....	53
Nov. 20		Paintsville.....	Kentucky.....	36
Nov. 22		Spring Mills.....	Pennsylvania.....	17
Nov. 29	112	Fairbury.....	Nebraska (Dis.).....	21
Nov. 30		Millerton.....	Pennsylvania.....	17
Dec. 4		Cincinnati.....	Ohio.....	21
Dec. 9	231	Bellefontaine.....	".....	23

Total number of camps 26
 Total number of applicants 680

The following camps have been mustered and issued charters since last publication:—

Date.	Camp No.	Location	Division.	No. Mustered.
Oct. 8	237	Cedar Springs.....	Michigan.....	27
Oct. 8	253	Everett.....	Pennsylvania.....	21
Oct. 8	315	Northumberland.....	Pennsylvania.....	15
Oct. 8	174	East St. Louis.....	Illinois.....	17
Oct. 8	56	Webb City.....	Missouri.....	23
Oct. 8	76	Horseheads.....	New York.....	19
Oct. 15	50	Alexandria.....	South Dakota.....	16
Oct. 15	73	Strahan (Dis.).....	Iowa.....	24
Oct. 15	65	Rock Valley (Dis.).....	Iowa.....	15
Oct. 15	90	Goodell (Dis.).....	Iowa.....	15
Oct. 25	512	Ervington.....	Ohio.....	33
Oct. 25	33	Wessington Springs.....	South Dakota.....	15
Nov. 4	161	Mancelona.....	Michigan.....	25
Nov. 4	80	Trufant.....	Michigan.....	19
Nov. 12	75	Erin.....	New York.....	25
Nov. 12	3	Milton.....	New Hampshire.....	25
Nov. 16	20	Dawson.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	15
Nov. 17	18	Danville.....	Kentucky.....	19
Nov. 20	316	Washington.....	Pennsylvania.....	17
Nov. 27	49	Sisseton.....	South Dakota.....	16
Nov. 29	112	Fairbury.....	Nebraska (Dis.).....	21
Nov. 29	12	Nashua.....	New Hampshire.....	18
Nov. 29	57	Alba.....	Missouri.....	15
Dec. 4	11	Jefferson, Okla.....	Kansas.....	32
Dec. 10	106	East Palestine.....	Ohio.....	17
Dec. 10	11	South Standish.....	Maine.....	20

Total number of camps 26
 Total number mustered 524



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,

ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 12, 1898.

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 1. }
Whole Number
Series 1897-6.

I. Copies of the Digest of Decisions and Opinions prepared by Judge-Advocate General Edward K. Gould are now in the hands of the Quartermaster-General ready for distribution. It is believed that this work covers in a comprehensive manner very important matters concerning the interpretation of our organic law, and should be in the hands of every member of the Order. Division Commanders can receive full information on this subject by application to the Quartermaster-General.

II. Division Commanders are requested to see that the Surgeons' reports of their respective Divisions are forwarded to the Surgeon-General, Dr. Dan S. Gardner, Massillon, Ohio, at an early date. It is desired to secure a complete report from every Division without any unnecessary delays.

III. The following additional appointments and assignments as Assistant Inspectors-General have been made:—

Dr. E. Weldon Young, Past-Surgeon General, to inspect the Washington Division. George F. Wolz, Past Division Commander, to inspect the Nebraska Division. D. S. Printup, Past Division Commander, to inspect the South Dakota Division.

Resignations have been received and accepted from Past Division Commander James D. Rowen as Inspector for the Nebraska Division; Past Division Commander George F. Wolz, as Inspector for the South Dakota Division.

IV. It is the intention that Inspector-General J. Frank Durston, Syracuse, N Y. (24 White Memorial Building), shall prepare a new set of inspection blanks to conform to the present needs of the Order. Those interested in this matter are invited to offer such suggestions as they deem proper, for the consideration of the Inspector General. It is deemed advisable to undertake this work now, owing to the close proximity of the National Encampment to the dates of inspections and the consequent inability to prepare and get new blanks into channels in time for use.

V. In connection with the observance of Union Defenders' Day, Memorial Day and similar occasions, attention is again called to the fact that at the Four-

teenth National Eneampment (Knoxville), "The Banner of Beauty and Glory" was adopted as the National hymn of the Order. Copies may be obtained of Nash & Nash, Tipton, Ind. The Indiana Division has secured several hundred copies of a libretto containing this and other songs which may be procured upon application to George W. Krietenstein, Quartermaster Indiana Division, Terre Haute, Ind. Prices will be furnished for single copies, or a larger number upon application to the above-named parties.

VI. All brothers wishing to make suggestions with regard to the revision of the Ritual of the Order are requested to send the same to C. D. Rooney, Chairman Committee on Revision of Ritual, 307 Carter Building, Boston, Mass. All matter to be considered should be typewritten, if possible, and three copies sent in each case. Division Commanders are requested to forward in triplicate copies of resolutions bearing on the subject which may be adopted by their respective Division Encampments, so that they may also be considered in advance of being presented to the next Eneampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Omaha. Commanders of Divisions are also requested to embody the substance of this paragraph, as far as it pertains to communications from individuals, in their next orders.

VII. The following Eneampment dates are announced:—

Alabama and Tennessee at Knoxville, Tenn.,	February 23-24
California at Nevada City	April 19-21
Kansas at Wichita	April 20-22
Michigan at Port Huron	June 14-16
Nebraska at Omaha	February 14
New Jersey at Trenton	February 17

VIII. The Eneampment of the Rhode Island Division was held in the city of Providence, February 1, at which Walter R. Williams, Woonsocket, was elected and installed as Division Commander.

IX. The changes from the totals of the June report, in the column "number in good standing at date of last report," in the Adjutant-General's consolidation of returns for the quarter ending September 30, have been rendered necessary by corrections made both at these Headquarters and by Division commanders, subsequent to the tabulation by the preceding Administration. Division officers must exercise greater care in, and a closer supervision over, the filling out of these report blanks, as errors are not infrequently found of a nature which renders it downright charity to assign to gross negligence.

X. The Commander-in-Chief is pleased to announce that the general condition of the Order has improved and that the prospects for further improvements appear to be most excellent.

In the matter of recruiting, and, in several Divisions, in organizing new Camps, a step has been taken in the right direction and a continuance can but give the Order greater numerical strength.

Without intending to overdo the urging of greater activity on the part of our members, it is none the less important that each brother should feel something of an individual responsibility for the welfare of his Camp, which means the welfare of the Order.

It is undoubtedly true that the greater portion of our members can do more than they are doing to build up the membership, and we trust that every brother who has the opportunity to induce others to join with him in the work of the Sons of Veterans will not neglect his duty in this respect.

In this connection we are reminded that, while it is desirable to obtain new members, it is also necessary that we should retain those already affiliated. The suspension list has been and will continue to be enormous, unless more attention is paid to dealing with this vexing and often discouraging problem.

Personal attention to delinquents on the part of the officers of Camps, and a thorough understanding of the causes that lead to delinquency, should first be ascertained, before final action is taken and names added to the suspension list. It is well not to permit a brother to impair his membership without some personal and direct effort by the proper Camp officers to prevent him, if possible, from incurring such disability.

The season of the year that has heretofore been marked by active work is at hand, and it is hoped that this year will prove no exception to the rule, unless it be in the abundance of its good results. To this end the purpose and object of each member should be to give some practical service, that will tend to enlarge the membership, extend the influence and increase the prestige of the Sons of Veterans.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Adjutant General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, }
84 LA SALLE ST., ROOM 7, }

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.,
Boston, Mass.

CHICAGO, Feb. 1, 1898.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to submit my report for the period Sept. 11 to Dec. 31, 1897.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Cash on hand, as per last report	\$ 710 41	Paid for supplies (including cost of shipping)	\$ 910 36
Received for supplies	1,341 15	" " office expenses	303 77
" " P.C. tax	1,139 57	" " general expenses	110 04
" " charter fees	83 00	" " travelling expenses	23 25
		" " salaries	750 00
		" " Sixteenth National Encampment	123 50
		" " General Orders	65 10
		" " Miscellaneous	2 85
		Cash on hand	985 26
	<u>\$3,274 13</u>		<u>\$3,274 13</u>
Dec. 31, 1897, supplies on hand, as per inventory			\$1,428 45

GENERAL ACCOUNT, DEC. 31, 1897.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Furniture	\$ 535 50	A. P. Davis	\$ 260 40
Supplies	1,428 45	Cameron, Amberg & Co.	21 90
Cash	985 26	P. F. Pettibone & Co.	23 00
Various divisions	7 99	Various Divisions	5 17
	<u>\$2,957 20</u>	Surplus	2,646 73
			<u>\$2,957 20</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, DEC. 31, 1897.

LOSSES.		GAINS.	
General Orders	\$ 65 10	Charter fees	\$ 83 00
Salaries	750 00	P.C. tax	1,139 57
Travelling expenses	23 25	Supplies	220 25
Office expenses	303 77		
General expenses	110 04		
Sixteenth Nat. Encampment	123 50		
Balance (gain)	67 16		
	<u>\$1,442 82</u>		<u>\$1,442 82</u>

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. APPLICANTS.
1897				
Dec. 16	319	Benton	Pennsylvania.....	24
" 16		Bellaire	Ohio.....	15
" 16	13	Cloud Chief, Okla.	Kansas	16
" 16	241	Wexford.....	Michigan.....	40
" 16	240	Bellaire	"	20
" 16	2	Bedford	Indiana.....	15
" 18		Plymouth	Michigan.....	32
" 23	242	Clio.....	"	32
" 27		Hilton Head (S.C.)	Maryland	27
" 27		Caro.....	Michigan.....	15
" 30		Hope.....	Indiana.....	23
" 31		Cazenovia.....	New York.....	22
1898				
Jan. 3	175	Rochelle (Dis.).....	Illinois	33
" 4	42	San Jose (Dis.).....	Cal. and H.I.....	20
" 7	15	Neosho Falls.....	Kansas	32
" 7	41	Bethany	Illinois	24
" 10		Northwood ..	New Hampshire.....	19
" 10		Glen Cove.....	New York.....	17
" 17		Grand Haven.....	Michigan.....	25
" 17		Glenmont.....	Ohio	21
" 20		Muskegon.....	Michigan.....	52
" 22		Galveston (Texas)	Missouri.....	22
" 22		Boonville	"	26
" 26	32	Nokomis (Dis.).....	Illinois.....	26
" 26	61	Chicago (Dis.).....	"	17
" 26	125	Prescott (Dis.).....	Iowa	16
" 28		Youngsville.....	Pennsylvania.....	15
" 31		Brockton.....	Massachusetts	30
Feb. 1		Sheffield	Pennsylvania	21
" 2		Thompsonville.....	Connecticut.....	21
" 4		Green Castle.....	Missouri.....	21
" 4		Wilmington, Del.....	Maryland	17
" 5		Long Branch.....	New Jersey.....	37
" 8		Gretna, La.....	Gulf	19

Total number of Camps 34

Total number of applicants 812

The following Camps have been mustered and issued charters since last publication:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. MUSTERED.
1897				
Dec 18	20	Vinita, Ind. Ter.....	Kansas.....	38
" 20	1	Smyrna, Del.....	Maryland.....	29
" 27	8	Parkland, Okla.....	Kansas	15
" 28	317	Millerton.....	Pennsylvania.....	18
" 28	318	Spring Mill.....	"	16
1898				
Jan. 3	175	Rochelle (Dis.).....	Illinois	33
" 3	21	Willmar	Minnesota	21
" 4	42	San Jose (Dis.).....	Cal. and H.I.....	20
" 12	240	Bellaire	Michigan.....	17
" 12	241	Wexford	"	27
" 12	242	Clio.....	"	26
" 12	82	Delhi.....	New York.....	17
" 19	2	Bedford	Indiana.....	16
" 25	15	Neosho Falls.....	Kansas	28
" 26	41	Bethany	Illinois	21
" 26	32	Nokomis (Dis.).....	"	26
" 26	61	Chicago (Dis.).....	"	17
" 26	319	Benton	Pennsylvania	19
" 26	125	Prescott (Dis.).....	Iowa	16

Total number of Camps 19

Total number mustered 420



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,

ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., April 12, 1898.

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 2.

I. By vote of the Council-in-Chief, the date of holding the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Omaha, Neb., has been fixed for September 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Further information relative to the arrangements for said Encampment will be announced in later Orders.

II. The following is published for the general information of the Order:—

DECISION XI.

“In the matter of the eligibility to membership of Fremont Tietze, which comes before me for rehearing on the petition of the Commander of the New Jersey Division:—

“This case was passed upon by Commander-in-Chief Rake in his Decision V., wherein it was held that Fremont Tietze had been illegally mustered into the Order, and consequently that his said muster was null and void. Upon appeal this decision was sustained by the Commandery-in-Chief. With this as the record of the case I should ordinarily refrain from acting upon the petition for a rehearing in manner other than to grant the same, and then refer to the next Commandery-in-Chief such new evidence as was produced, together with a recommendation thereon, notwithstanding the fact that a careful examination of the proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment leads me to the conclusion that the case, when before the Commandery-in-Chief, turned largely upon irregularity in the appeal, and that the new evidence then offered, but which Commander-in-Chief Rake had not at hand when rendering his decision, was not considered. But having granted the petition for a rehearing, I find it now in evidence that Emil Tietze, father of Fremont Tietze, enlisted in Capt. James M. Bell's Unattached Independent Cavalry Company of Pennsylvania, and was mustered into the ninety days' State Militia, June 30, 1863, and was honorably discharged Aug. 9, 1863. That the troops served under the command of Colonel Nelson A. Miles in the “Department of the Susquehanna,” commanded by Major-General Darius N. Couch, both of these officers holding commissions in the United States service. The members of this Company took the oath of allegiance to the United States and the command was actually employed, under orders of Colonel Miles and General Couch, in resisting the invasion of the State of Pennsylvania by Lee's army, having been turned over to the United States authorities by the Governor of Pennsylvania for that purpose. It also appears that this Company was paid, subsisted and clothed by

the United States government. Furthermore, it appears in evidence that a decision has been rendered by the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic holding that the men composing the Independent Troop of Cavalry commanded by Capt. James M. Bell, are eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. The official records cited have been carefully examined and found to contain all that is claimed for them.

"From this new evidence and statement of facts, I am satisfied that Emil Tietze, father of Fremont Tietze, 'served in the Union Army,' and has an honorable discharge. I therefore declare Fremont Tietze eligible to membership in our Order, and that he should be reinstated with his past rank.

"In addition to the formal petition, abstract of new evidence and copy of argument, there are retained with the papers in the case until such time as this decision may be acted upon by the Commandery-in-Chief, the original discharge; letter from Maj.-Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U.S.A., dated April 8, 1897; two letters from Maj. James M. Bell, U.S.A., dated January 20 and Nov. 7, 1897; letter from Commander of Lieutenant S. C. Potts Post, No. 62, Department of Pennsylvania, G.A.R., dated Dec. 2, 1897, and letter of Thomas J. Stewart, Adjutant-General of the G.A.R., dated Nov. 23, 1897."

III. Attention is again called to the "Sons of Veterans Digest," prepared by Judge-Advocate Gen. Edward K. Gould. It is suggested that members who have not yet procured copies of the same, should do so. Information of great value concerning questions that constantly arise in camp meetings is contained therein. The Digest may be secured upon proper requisitions to Division Headquarters.

IV. Division Commanders have been elected as follows:—

Alabama and Tennessee	H. T. Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.
Connecticut	Leon L. Hall, Wallingford.
Massachusetts	Leonard C. Couch, Taunton.
Nebraska	A. H. Rawitzer, Omaha.
New Jersey	James N. Mathews, Trenton.

V. The following Encampment dates are announced:—

Colorado at Cripple Creek	June	15-17
Gulf at New Orleans	June	
Iowa at Sioux City	June	15-16
Illinois at Streator	May	10-12
Kentucky at Louisville	May	3-4
Maine at Pittsfield	June	8-9
Maryland at Hagerstown	June	15-16
Minnesota at Sank Centre	June	14-16
Missouri at Carthage	May	19-20
New Hampshire at Tilton	April	20-21
New York at Peekskill	June	28-30
South Dakota at Canton	June	7-9
Washington at Walla Walla	June	

Commanders who have not forwarded to these Headquarters the dates of the Encampments of their respective Divisions, will do so without delay.

VI. An impostor giving the names of George K. Willson, F. Nelson, and other aliases, has been working upon the sympathies of brothers in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey. He tells a story of having lost his overcoat containing his pocket book, and seeks the loan of enough money to get him to his home, which is usually not far distant. The sums advanced, he has invariably promised to return, with profuse thanks for the accommodation. He is described as about 5 feet 8 or 10 inches in height, reddish complexion, dressed neatly, and appears respectable, smooth talker, and has some considerable knowledge of the secret work. Members are warned against such a party, in fact are generally cautioned to become thoroughly convinced of the reliability of all persons seeking assistance, as members of the Order.

VII. Upon recommendation of Division Commanders the charters of the following Camps have been revoked and annulled. Alabama and Tennessee 33. Kansas, 13, 15, 19, 25. Missouri, 2, 5, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 39, 41, 45, 50, 69, 72, 75, 76, 77, 82, 97, 107, 121, 151, 153, 166, 179, 182, 192, 194, 195, 196, 197, 199, 205, 211, 215, 229.

VIII. Division Commanders are requested to cause reports for the quarter ending March 31, and subsequent quarters to be forwarded to these headquarters without any unnecessary delay. Most of the Divisions exercise dispatch in this respect, others are very neglectful. There is no excuse for Camps that delay beyond the time specified by the C.R. & R., and Commanders should enforce their authority in this respect.

IX. The Commander-in-Chief announces with deep regret the death of Past Commander Jesse R. Dungan of the New Jersey Division, March 6. Brother Dungan became a member of the Order in 1888, serving in various Camp and Division offices, to the Commandership in 1897. The deceased was a member of the National Guard, connected with the Masonic fraternity, and stood high in his chosen profession, at the time of his death being the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Somerset County.

X. Reference to the Adjutant-General's consolidated report for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1897, published herewith, will show that the Order is to be congratulated on the net gain in membership. For the first time in a number of years, a substantial gain is shown for this particular quarter; in fact, the gain is the largest experienced in any quarter for quite a period.

It is very agreeable to be privileged to report a net gain of 1206 members, and to refer to the fact that since the June quarter 1897, the net gain is 1378 members. While these figures demonstrate what can be done to improve the condition of the Order, it does not signify that we should rest content with the result. There are many thousands more yet to be enrolled in our Order, and the Commander-in-Chief bespeaks the earnest, faithful service of all brothers in the interests of recruiting, thus assuring increased strength and advancement of our grand organization.

Let the energies of Division Commanders, their associates, Camp officers, and the rank and file of loyal brothers be devoted to forging the membership ahead to thousands more than it is at present.

XI. The war-cloud which has hung over our land for weeks past, turns our thoughts more than ever to the true meaning of service for country and willingness to die if need be in her defense.

Our Order is founded to perpetuate the memory of the services and sacrifices of those who, now over a third of a century ago, engaged in the struggle to maintain the union of States — States which today vie with each other in patriotism and loyalty to the flag, against every foe. Now, of all times, when national pride is aroused; when a spirit of earnest devotion to principles which have made us, and maintain us, as a free people, is everywhere apparent; when for the first time, perhaps, we catch something of the deeper sense of responsibility to one's country, which only actual service amid danger can bring, we should, with the coming of Memorial Day, pay every tribute of respect to the memory of those who, having fought nobly in the defense of right, have gone to their reward. Let this year find every Son of a Veteran in the ranks ready to do the bidding of the Grand Army of the Republic, and assist them in the services of the day.

XII. The Commander-in-Chief has received abundant evidence of the patriotic spirit of the Order, and has sometime since communicated by letter with the Division Commanders relative to action to be taken in the event of the breaking out of hostilities. He has seen no reason to change the stand taken at the outset, that we should not over-protect our possession of what we profess — willingness to emulate the example of our fathers; nor make vain tenders of services of armed bodies when they are not in existence; nor seek to control individual action when it involves a question of one's service to his country. Companies, regiments, possibly brigades, would spring from our organization throughout the land, should the call be made; but all must be duly accepted and mustered by the constituted authorities and by them officered. Every preparation to this end may well be in contemplation, but no call to the field can emanate from these Headquarters.

It is fully expected that our members will perform their duty, wherever the path of that duty lies, and here it is believed the matter may be safely left.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and features elaborate flourishes, particularly a large loop at the end of the last name.

Adjutant-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. APPLICANTS.
1898				
Feb. 9	13	Rochester (Dis.)	New York	27
" 10	1	Canaan	Indiana	18
" 11	116	Athens	Michigan	22
" 11	8	Monumeut (Dis.)	Colorado	20
" 11	22	Amerieus	Kansas	29
" 11	19	Tonganoxie	"	29
" 15	19	Wolfboro	New Hampshire	16
" 15		Grafton	West Virginia	15
" 16	100	Tecumseh (Dis)	Nebraska	20
" 16		Greenfield	Ohio	26
" 21	322	Franklin Forks	Pennsylvania	17
" 21		Leola	South Dakota	17
" 24		Point Marion	Pennsylvania	23
" 24	244	Carleton	Michigan	28
" 25		Cygnat	Ohio	27
" 25	27	Kalo (Dis.)	Iowa	16
" 25	50	Sioux City (Dis.)	"	49
" 28		Cowan	Indiana	21
" 28		Gilboa	Ohio	18
" 28	106	Mifflinburg	Pennsylvania	19
March 1	138	Carbondale	Pennsylvania	33
" 2	2	Los Angeles (Dis.)	Cal. and H.I.	48
" 3	245	Otisville	Michigan	28
" 7	29	Coffeyville	Kansas	24
" 15	22	Wayzata (Dis.)	Minnesota	18
" 17	41	Toledo (Dis.)	Iowa	17
" 18		Shelby	Nebraska	19
" 21	135	Fremont	Indiana	21
" 22		Moravia	New York	55
" 22		Reusselaer	"	20
" 26		Gladstone	Michigan	17
" 26	32	Homestead, Okla.	Kansas	16
" 26	6	Linton	Indiana	44
" 28	3	Goldendale (Dis.)	Washington	17
April 6		Wilmington, Del.	Maryland	30
" 9		Sterling	Kansas	25
" 9		Cleveland	Ohio	33
" 9		Jeffersonville	Ohio	17

Total number of Camps 38

Total number of Applicants 939

The following Camps have been mustered and issued charters since last publication:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. MUSTERED.
1898				
Jan. 26	231	Bellefontaine	Ohio	23
" 26	355	Bellaire	"	16
" 26	513	Toronto	"	24
Feb. 11	13	Rochester (Dis.)	New York	27
" 11	15	Port Jervis	"	30
" 11	62	Bath	"	34
" 11	84	Cazenovia	"	22
" 11	8	Monument (Dis.)	Colorado	20
" 11	19	Paintsville	Kentucky	20
" 11	243	Grand Haven	Michigan	26
" 12	515	Cincinnati	Ohio	21
" 16	15	Northwood	New Hampshire	21
" 16	19	Wolfboro (Dis.)	"	16
" 16	100	Tecumseh (Dis.)	Nebraska	20
" 16	7	Long Branch	New Jersey	32
" 16	87	Glen Cove, L.I.	New York	15
" 17	31	Brockton	Massachusetts	17
" 28	27	Kalo (Dis.)	Iowa	16
" 28	50	Sionx City (Dis.)	"	49
" 28	514	Glenmont	Ohio	18
" 28	3	Wilmington, Del.	Maryland	17
" 28	228	Caro	Michigan	17
March 3	2	Los Angeles (Dis.)	Cal. and H. I.	48
" 3	40	Thompsonville	Connecticut	15
" 9	19	Tonganoxie	Kansas	17
" 9	239	Montrose	Michigan	22
" 12	17	Greenfield	Ohio	18
" 12	17	Ford	Kentucky	15
" 14	40	Washburn	So. Dakota	15
" 17	22	Wayzata (Dis.)	Minnesota	18
" 18	58	Galveston, Texas	Missouri	24
" 18	60	Sticklerville	"	26
" 18	41	Toledo (Dis.)	Iowa	17
" 18	1	Canaan	Indiana	20
" 22	22	Americus	Kansas	31
" 22	106	Mifflinburg	Pennsylvania	18
" 22	138	Carbondale	"	33
" 22	320	Sheffield	"	22
" 22	321	Yonngsville	"	16
" 22	322	Franklin Forks	"	16
" 23	18	Mnskegon	Michigan	42
" 23	116	Athens	"	19
" 23	244	Carleton	"	18
" 23	245	Otisville	"	23
" 30	3	Goldendale (Dis.)	Washington	17
" 30	17	Gretna, La.	Gulf	20
April 6	.....	Point Marion	Pennsylvania	20

Total number of Camps 47

Total numbered mustered 1051



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,

ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 20, 1898.

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 3. }

I. The Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is hereby ordered to convene at Omaha, Neb., at ten o'clock A.M., Sept. 12, 1898.

Sessions of the Encampment will be held at Creighton Hall, Fifteenth and Harney streets.

Headquarters will be established at the New Mercer Hotel.

The members of the Council-in-Chief are directed to report at eight o'clock P.M., September 11.

II. The hotel rates are announced as follows: New Mercer Hotel (Headquarters Commandery-in-Chief), \$2.50 per day, American plan. Millard and Paxton hotels, \$3.00 per day and upwards, American plan; \$1.50 per day and upwards, European plan. Dellone hotel, \$2.50 per day, American plan. Hotel accommodations may be secured by addressing Division Commander A. H. Rawitzer, 402 New York Life Building, Omaha, Neb.

III. The local committee of arrangements have announced their intention of providing for the entertainment of the visiting delegates, many interesting and attractive features. The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be of especial interest and arrangements will be made for a "Sons of Veterans Day" at the Exposition. We are advised of a portion of the program as now arranged:

SUNDAY, Sept. 11, A.M. Parade (meeting official train).

SUNDAY, P.M. Watermelon picnic, Riverview Park.

MONDAY, Sept. 12, A.M. Session of Encampment.

MONDAY, P.M. Visit to the Exposition.

TUESDAY, Sept. 13, A.M. Session of Encampment.

TUESDAY, P.M. Session of Encampment.

TUESDAY, EVENING, Camp-fire.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 14, A.M. Session of Encampment.

WEDNESDAY, P.M. Session of Encampment.

WEDNESDAY, EVENING. Theatre Party.

IV. The following Transportation Committee has been appointed:

Quartermaster-Gen. R. Loebenstein, Chairman, 84 LaSalle St., Chicago.

Asst.-Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Hannon, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston.

Past Grand Division Commander R. M. J. Reed, 32 N. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Division Commander Charles L. Pierce, 13 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.

The report of the chairman of the Transportation Committee is self explanatory and is published for the information of the Order :—

FRED E. BOLTON,

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 5, 1898.

Adjutant-General, S. V., U.S.A.

Dear Sir and Brother: I have the honor to report the following rates and arrangements made by the various traffic associations on account of the Sons of Veterans National Encampment, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 12-15, 1898 :—

WESTERN PASSENGER ASSOCIATION.

Points west of Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis: Rate, one fare, plus two dollars for the round trip, except that from points within one hundred and fifty miles of Omaha, the rate is to be one fare for the round trip. Selling dates: September 10 and 11. Return limit: September 21.

CENTRAL PASSENGER ASSOCIATION.

West of Buffalo and Pittsburg, and east of Western Passenger Association Territory: Rate, one fare, plus four dollars for the round trip. Limitations conform to those of the Western Passenger Association.

TRUNK LINE ASSOCIATION.

Points east of Central Passenger Association Territory, excepting New England: Rate fare and one-third for round trip. Pay full fare going, and be sure to secure certificate for amount paid.

NEW ENGLAND PASSENGER ASSOCIATION.

Points in New England: Rate conforms with that of Trunk Line Association.

SOUTHEASTERN PASSENGER ASSOCIATION.

Points south of Ohio River: No rate other than Exposition rate, which is virtually rate of fare and a third for round trip.

Arrangements have been made with the "Burlington Route" to run a special train to the Encampment, leaving Chicago on the evening of Saturday, September 10, and arriving in Omaha early on the morning of the 11th. Those wishing accommodations reserved on this train, should notify the undersigned at the earliest possible moment.

Faternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,

Chairman Committee on Transportation.

The official party will travel from Boston, leaving at 10.30 A.M., Sept. 9, *via* the Boston and Albany, New York Central and Hudson River and Michigan Central Railroads to Chicago, from Chicago to Omaha, *via* the "Burlington Route." Delegates are cordially invited to join *en route* where convenient, and especially from Chicago to Omaha.

V. Division Encampments not announced in General Orders have been held as follows:—

Indiana at Columbus	May 17-19
Ohio at Columbus	June 8, 9
Oregon at The Dalles	May 17
Pennsylvania at Philipsburg	June 14-16
Vermont at Barre	July 6-8
West Virginia at Huntington	April 26-28
Wisconsin at Appleton	May 24-26

VI. Division Commanders elected and installed since last announcement:—

California and H. I.	CHARLES L. PIERCE (re-elected), San Francisco.
Colorado	PAUL H. LIMBACH, Denver.
Gulf	A. M. BUCHMANN, New Orleans.
Illinois	WILLIAM T. CHURCH, Chicago.
Indiana	R. S. THOMPSON (re-elected), Rising Sun.
Iowa	W. W. BISBY, Des Moines.
Kansas	JOHN REDMOND, Wichita.
Kentucky	E. H. HANSFORD, Somerset.
Maine	GEORGE E. LEIGHTON, Skowhegan.
Maryland	WILLIAM B. KING, Hagerstown.
Michigan	GEORGE E. COGSHALL, Grand Rapids.
Minnesota	M. L. CORMANY, Minneapolis.
Missouri	J. W. S. DILLON, Grant City.
New Hampshire	HENRY E. CHAMBERLIN, Concord.
New York	E. W. ESTES, Albany.
Ohio	EDWARD H. ARCHER, Columbus.
Oregon	A. O. DESART, Silverton.
Pennsylvania	A. S. MOULTHROP, Du Bois.
South Dakota	W. A. MORRIS, Redfield.
Vermont	WILLIAM W. LAPOINT (re-elected), Barre.
Washington	W. T. CAVANAUGH, Olympia.
West Virginia	A. R. JONES, Elkins.
Wisconsin	R. M. SMITH, Marinette.

VII. Division Commanders should at once see that all reports have been forwarded to the proper officers. Attention is called to the change of address of the Chaplain-in-Chief for the balance of his term, Rev. Harry L. Veazey, Woodsville, N.H.

VIII. Division Commanders who have not filed their bond as required by the Commandery Rules and Regulations, are directed to forward the same at once.

IX. Division Commanders are requested to secure from the Camps in their Divisions, a list of those members of the Order serving in the army and navy during the war with Spain. It is proper that some official record should be preserved to show the practical patriotism of our members. Name, rank, company, regiment or ship are the facts desired. It is already known that sons of veterans have played no inconspicuous part in furnishing volunteers, and whenever an opportunity was presented, their full duty has been performed. Division Commanders will complete the record of service as soon as possible and forward a duplicate copy thereof to the headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief.

X. This being the last General Order to be issued by the present administration, the Commander-in-Chief desires to return to the members of the Order at large, his sincere thanks for the support and co-operation they have given during his year of service. Nothing has occurred to mar the perfect harmony that has prevailed. The interests of the Order have been well served by the general work of its members throughout the country, and its future is bright with possibilities for greater advancement.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Fred Bolton". The signature is written in a cursive style with long, sweeping strokes. The name "Fred" is written in a larger, more prominent script than "Bolton".

Adjutant-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	No. APPLICANTS.
1898				
April 12	2	Willmantic	Connecticut.....	31
" 13	324	Sharon	Pennsylvania.....	27
" 14	7	Salmon City, Id. (Dis.)	Washington.....	16
" 14	61	Spring Bluff	Missouri.....	20
" 15	288	Lewisburg	Pennsylvania.....	34
" 20	3	Beverly	New Jersey.....	15
" 22	6	Orange (Dis.)	California and H.I.	18
" 22	40	Sac City (Dis.)	Iowa	15
" 22	68	Odebolt (Dis.)	"	15
" 22	18	Omega, La. (Dis.)	Gulf	15
" 25		Baltimore.....	Maryland	50
" 25	14	Steele City (Dis.).....	Nebraska	23
" 26	520	Madisonville.....	Ohio	20
" 28		Shawnee, Okla.....	Kansas.....	29
May 5	6	Lushton	Nebraska.....	18
" 6	94	Mexico	New York.....	15
" 6	8	Hot Springs (Dis.)	South Dakota.....	16
" 9	97	Afton	New York.....	20
" 9	2	Cowallis (Dis.).....	Oregon	21
" 9	4	Eugene (Dis.)	"	18
" 9	6	Yoncalla (Dis.)	"	18
" 11	98	North Cohocton.....	New York.....	28
" 13		Kennard	Nebraska.....	16
" 14	10	Millers Falls	Massachusetts.....	18
" 19	8	Stone (Dis.)	Vermont	15
" 19	9	Halifax (Dis.).....	"	18
" 19	10	Castleton (Dis.).....	"	19
" 19	38	Newport (Dis.).....	"	16
" 21	37	Augusta, Okla.....	Kansas	30
" 23	67	Salix (Dis.)	Iowa	16
" 23	95	Elma (Dis.)	"	15
" 23	100	Northwood (Dis.).....	"	17
" 27	181	Franklin	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 27	20	Baraboo	Wisconsin.....	35
" 31		Montville	Ohio	18
" 31		Liberal	Kansas	15
June 1		Alphena	Michigan	17
" 7	91	Dallas Center (Dis.) ..	Iowa	19
" 10	105	Stanton	Michigan.....	41
" 16	107	Paris	Illinois	52
" 22	4	Pioneer	Ohio	22
" 29	53	Urbana (Dis.).....	Illinois	29
" 30	98	Anna (Dis.)	"	20
" 30	176	Mount Morris (Dis.) ..	"	24
" 30	216	Naperville (Dis.).....	"	22
" 30		Hamilton	Ohio	42
July 5	10	Mount Vernon.....	Maine	23
" 11	35	Long Point (Dis.).....	Illinois	16
" 13	231	Macon (Dis.)	"	20
" 13	106	Reed City.....	Michigan	22
" 21	9	Fresno (Dis.)	California & H.I.	28
" 21	11	Manila, P.I. (Dis.)	"	16
" 21	11	Portsmouth	Ohio	17
" 21	248	Webberville	Michigan.....	28
" 23	325	Centre Hall	Pennsylvania.....	19
" 27		Trumansburg	New York.....	19
" 28	195	Fairfield	Illinois	51
" 28	98	Sheffield (Dis.).....	Iowa	16
Aug. 6	63	Alma	Michigan	28
" 6	10	Columbus (Dis.)	Ohio	17
" 8		Stillwater	Minnesota	20
" 9	10	Columbus (Dis.)	Ohio	17
" 15	14	San Bernardino (Dis.)	California & H.I.	16

Total number of Camps 63

Total number of Applicants 1,420

The following Camps have been mustered and issued charters since last publication:—

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. MUSTERED.
1898				
April 9	1	Hilton Head, S.C.....	Maryland	27
" 9	135	Fremont	Indiana	17
" 11	32	Homestead, Okla.....	Kansas	18
" 11	4	Shelby	Nebraska	20
" 11	48	Leola	So. Dakota.....	18
" 14	29	Coffeyville	Kansas	20
" 14	7	Salmon City, Id. (Dis.)	Washington	16
" 20	26	Grafton	West Virginia.....	17
" 21	6	Linton	Indiana	23
" 22	32	Columbus	"	45
" 25	40	Sac City (Dis.)	Iowa	15
" 25	68	Odebolt (Dis.)	"	15
" 25	18	Omega, La.(Dis.)	Gulf	15
" 25	6	Orange (Dis.)	California and H.I....	18
" 26	1	Hope	Indiana	21
" 27	518	Cleveland	Ohio	21
" 27	519	Jeffersonville	"	17
" 29	91	Rensselaer	New York	27
" 30	14	Steele City (Dis.)	Nebraska	23
May 3	2	Wilmington, Del.....	Maryland	31
" 5	361	Cowan	Indiana	24
" 5	3	Beverly	New Jersey	27
" 6	8	Hot Springs (Dis.)	So. Dakota.....	16
" 10	2	Cowallis (Dis.)	Oregon	21
" 10	4	Eugene (Dis.)	"	18
" 10	6	Yoncalla (Dis.)	"	18
" 10	8	Mehama	"	18
" 10	23	McMinnville	"	15
" 10	288	Lewisburg	Pennsylvania	29
" 16	61	Spring Bluff.....	Missouri	20
" 20	8	Stone (Dis.)	Vermont	15
" 20	9	Halifax (Dis.)	"	18
" 20	10	Castleton (Dis.)	"	19
" 20	38	Newport (Dis.)	"	16
" 20	324	Sharon	Pennsylvania	29
" 20	247	Gladstone	Michigan	15
" 24	67	Sallix (Dis.)	Iowa	16
" 24	95	Elma (Dis.)	"	15
" 24	100	Northwood (Dis.)	"	17
" 31	94	Mexico	New York	22
" 31	97	Afton	"	20
June 3	5	Baltimore	Maryland	40
" 9	6	Lushton	Nebraska	27
" 9	10	Millers Falls.....	Massachusetts	19
" 9	91	Dallas Center (Dis.) ..	Iowa	19
" 15	98	North Cohocton.....	New York	26
" 22	2	Willimantic.....	Connecticut	34
" 22	181	Franklin	Pennsylvania	30
" 29	25	Sterling	Kansas	32
" 29	53	Urbana (Dis.)	Illinois	29
" 29	520	Madisonville.....	Ohio	20
" 30	98	Anna (Dis.)	Illinois	20
" 30	176	Mount Morris (Dis.) ..	"	24
" 30	216	Naperville (Dis.)	"	22
July 11	35	Long Point (Dis.)	"	16
" 13	231	Macon (Dis.)	"	20
" 22	107	Paris	"	32
" 22	9	Fresno (Dis.)	California and H.I....	28
" 22	11	Manila, P.I. (Dis.)	"	16
" 27	20	Baraboo	Wisconsin	17
" 27	106	Reed City	Michigan	19
" 29	98	Sheffield (Dis.)	Iowa	16
" 29	92	Moravia	New York	41
Aug. 2	10	Mount Vernon.....	Maine	18
" 2	4	Pioneer	Ohio	16
" 4	517	Gilboa	"	16
" 9	37	Angusta, Okla.....	Kansas	40
" 9	10	Columbus (Dis.)	Ohio	17
" 15	105	Stanton	Michigan	21
" 15	14	San Bernardino (Dis.)	California & H.I.	16
" 16	325	Centre Hall	Pennsylvania	16

Total number of Camps 71

Total numbered mustered 1,540

SPECIAL ORDERS.

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 18, 1897.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 1.

Past Division Commander Henry C. Chatto, of Rockland, Me., is hereby detailed to install Brother Edward K. Gould, as Judge Advocate-General of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., and will report his acts in this behalf to these headquarters.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 30, 1897.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 2.

As it will be impossible to publish the Blue Book this present term, and as there is an imperative demand for some work of this kind, that the official decisions and opinions may be in form for ready reference, Judge Advocate-General Edward K. Gould is hereby authorized and instructed to prepare for the use of the Order a digest of such Decisions of the Commander-in-Chief and Opinions of the Judge Advocate-General as are now in force, and to print and furnish the same to the Quartermaster-General, he in turn to issue them, on requisition, to Divisions at such price as to afford both the Commandery-in-Chief and Divisions a reasonable profit in the sale of the work.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., March 4, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 3.

Leave of absence for six weeks, commencing March 30, 1898, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, is hereby granted to the following named officer, who will, at the expiration thereof, report in writing to these headquarters: Charles C. Townsend, Commander Wisconsin Division.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., May 2, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 4.

Leave of absence for thirty days is hereby granted to the following named officer, who will, at the expiration thereof, report in writing to these headquarters: Richard F. Cross, Senior Vice-Commander, New Jersey Division.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., May 27, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 5.

I. The resignation of M. D. Friedman as Junior Vice-Division Commander of the Alabama and Tennessee Division, tendered May 23, is hereby accepted.

II. H. T. Cooper, Commander Alabama and Tennessee Division, is hereby ordered to convene the Division Council of said Division, for the purpose of filling the vacancy.

H. T. Cooper, Division Commander, is hereby authorized to install the officer-elect and report his acts in this behalf to these headquarters.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., June 2, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 6.

The leave of absence granted Richard F. Cross, Senior Vice-Commander of the New Jersey Division, in Special Orders No. 4, C.S., is hereby extended sixty days.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., June 27, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 7.

Leave of absence for three months, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, is hereby granted to the following named officer, who will, at the expiration thereof, report in writing to these headquarters: M. P. O'Flaherty, Junior Vice-Commander Rhode Island Division.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., July 12, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 8.

Leave of absence for two months, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, is hereby granted to the following named officer, who will, at the expiration thereof, report in writing to these headquarters: S. A. Crane, Senior Vice-Commander, Michigan Division.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 2, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 9.

Leonard C. Couch, Commander Massachusetts Division, is hereby authorized to convene the Division Council of said Division for the purpose of holding a special election to fill the vacancy existing in the office of Junior Vice-Division Commander.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR LETTERS.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF,

HARRIMAN, TENN., Jan. 8, 1898.

CIRCULAR NO. 1.

Brothers: A testing time of patriotism is near at hand. By the earnestness and enthusiasm of our observance of Union Defenders' Day, the real strength of the Order to which we have sworn allegiance is gauged. For the birthday of the greatest American makes the strongest possible appeal to all that is noblest in the emotion of the American heart. The very atmosphere of the twelfth of February is electric with forces which inspire to the deepest devotion to duty, to the completest consecration to patriotic principles, to the most potent passion for the maintenance of the national honor, and to the most zealous and untiring efforts for the inculcation of "the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice to all." It also offers us the best opportunity of all the year for holding up before every soul in America the ideal of American citizenship and manhood. In Abraham Lincoln exists the best expression of how the possibilities which America affords to all her children may be realized. Lincoln's birthday is the day of days in which to demonstrate the eternal righteousness of America's ideal for human society, and the supreme wisdom of her political philosophy.

In the Railsplitter we have our best example of a sane and sober life, and of a fearless championship of righteous principles. In him we behold a "charity for all" as sweet and wise as his "firmness in the right" was straightforward and outspoken. In him dwelt the wisdom of a Solon, the courage of a Richard, the faith of a Paul, the tender love and forgiveness of a Christ. His divinely compassionate and encouraging appeal to the South, when it was lying prostrate beneath the black and bitter shadow of defeat, was made in these words, which are both a portrayal of his soul and a prophecy of the coming peace: "We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, the bond of our affection. The mystic chord of memory, stretching from every patriot grave to every heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when touched again, as it surely will be, by the better angels of our nature." So thoroughly sincere and effective was he in this forgiveness, that from the

heart of the South has come the response: "When Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg is engraved on the tablet to be erected on the battlefield, not a word of it will jar upon the Confederate who reads, for its spirit is the spirit of the peace-loving statesman whose prayer is that the nation may be preserved with honor. It is a test of Lincoln's greatness that he wrote in that spirit of gentle humanity but inflexible devotion to country, when the bitterness of war was at its height."

Brothers, let us commemorate most sacredly, on February twelfth, the services and sacrifices of this man. Let us keep holy the day in that same spirit by which his whole life was sanctified. Let us not only call to mind what *he* did and said, but let us remember the men who rallied to his call by the hundred thousand, — our fathers, — who stayed the gray waves of secession and kept this

"A nation, free from sea to sea;
In union blessed forever."

Let us remember, too, that with our heritage of honor and noble blood, we are endowed with corresponding obligations. America expects her veterans' sons to guard well the picket line even in these days of peace. Our fathers have saved the nation. We must keep it safe. We must, by the heartiness of our observance of this day, keep the great army of America's citizens awake to the responsibility and sanctity of citizenship. For the great danger which threatens a commonwealth in peaceful days is a lack of moral earnestness in the discharge of civic duties. The Sons of Veterans can be, ought to be and must be, "the salt of the earth" for America. To this end let Union Defenders' Day be celebrated with stirring song and inspiring oration. Let every member of every Camp pay to Lincoln and to Lincoln's men, the merited tribute of hard work, earnest thought and quickened emotion, upon this occasion.

Let every Camp arrange a program at once. Let us, by the quality of our exercises, prove our fitness for the name which the valor of our sires permits us to bear.

The Chaplain-in-Chief takes this opportune occasion to endorse and recommend the suggestion made by Commander Lapoint of the Vermont Division, that, in addition to the exercises of Union Defenders' Day, on the following Sunday a patriotic religious service be held, in which every patriotic clergyman and layman organization and individual may be invited to participate. The pulpits of America were eloquent with loyalty in '61; let us help them to be equally so in '98.

Like Lincoln: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Let us do these things in Friendship, in Charity, in Loyalty.

HARRY LAWRENCE VEAZEY,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,
ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING.

BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 10, 1898.

The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated, with the hope that
Camps throughout the Order may arrange such exercises as seem to them best
calculated to insure a fitting observance of the day.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Dolton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the title "Adjutant-General".

Adjutant-General.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,
 ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING,
 BOSTON, JAN. 10, 1898.

CIRCULAR No. 2.

At the Fourteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1895, a committee, consisting of Hon. Webster Davis, Missouri; W. Scott Oberdorf, New York; Josiah Gross, Gulf; George F. Wolz, Nebraska, and Edward R. Campbell, Maryland, were appointed to consider the expediency of erecting monuments on the battlefields of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga, and to consider the subject of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., uniting with the Sons of Confederate Veterans in erecting peace monuments upon said battlefields. This committee rendered a partial report to the Fifteenth Annual Encampment in 1896. The committee was continued and submitted a report at the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, which is given herewith

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS.

"With a view to carrying this work to completion, we have the honor to recommend the following to be adopted by this Encampment:—

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY: That we, whose names are hereunto signed, citizens of the United States, a part of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, are desirous of forming an organization under Section No. 345 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, as follows:—

First. The name of this society shall be THE NATIONAL SONS OF VETERANS BATTLEFIELD PARK MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Second. This Association to continue as an incorporate body for the period of twenty years.

Third. Its objects are: First, the erection on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga, suitable monuments to the private soldiers who lost their lives thereon in defense of the nation's honor during the War of Secession. Second, to erect peace monuments on said battlefield parks as fitting remembrances of a reunited country.

Fourth. The number of directors of this Association shall consist of members selected from the incorporators or from members of the First Class.

Fifth. The membership of this Association shall be of five classes, as follows, viz.: —

Class 1. The members of the committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment and all Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Class 2. Past Division Commanders of the Order, who shall be eligible to office, and upon their being elected thereto shall become members of the First Class.

Class 3. Any son of a Union soldier.

Class 4. Any son of a Confederate soldier.

Class 5. Any person.

Fees and dues, by-laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors.

Fraternally,

E. R. CAMPBELL,

Chairman Battlefield Park Monument Committee."

By vote of the Encampment the present administration was instructed to publish the report, promulgating the same to the various Divisions, that they may instruct their delegates for action thereon at the next Encampment.

It is requested that each Division Encampment shall consider the proposition and report of the said committee, and instruct their representatives to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief to vote on the question as the Division Encampment may decide.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the title "Adjutant-General".

Adjutant-General.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A.,
DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF,
HARRIMAN, TENN., April 28, 1898.

CIRCULAR NO. 3.

Brothers: America's holiest day draws near. This nation in mingled sadness and gratitude will call to reverent remembrance the valor and unselfish sacrifice of her defenders who have been transferred from the armies of earth to the legions of that mysterious world beyond the grave. The most beautiful and fragrant gifts of the God who dwelleth in nature will be laid upon the long low mounds which rise above the noiseless but eloquent dust which in the vigor and suppleness of life protected the heart of the nation. One by one those mounds increase. Day by day with quickening cadence the "Grand Army" marches into the invisible. With its passing, comes a larger responsibility to those upon whom falls its mantle of honorable heritage.

Memorial Day belongs to the veteran. No other hand can so tenderly strew the blossoming emblems of God's undying love for men. No other voice can so touchingly utter the word of grateful and glorified memory. No other heart can be so solemnly impressed with the sacredness of the occasion, or so thoroughly appreciate its spirit and meaning. But this makes not less the duty and privilege of the Sons of Veterans upon this day. For us, and for the nation of which we are a part, these heroes, both living and dead, freely offered even their lives in order that we, and all men, might enjoy the inestimable blessings of personal liberty and national unity.

For the proper observance of this day we are banded together. So let every influence be exerted to check the growing tendency toward making this a day of thoughtless sport and vulgar amusement. Let us emphatically, even sternly, insist that this day shall be religiously observed in memory of the patriots and heroes of '61. Let the busy marts of trade be closed. Let the hum of industry cease. Let the amusement halls be vacant, and in the peaceful cities of the dead let us gather to pay tribute to the spirit which is above all selfishness and love of gain. May the whole American people stand in the hushed presence of the God of nations and the spirits of the hero-dead, and reconsecrate this country to principles made sacred by the blood of martyrs and the blessing of the Absolute.

Memorial Sunday, falling this year on May 29, should be more generally observed than ever before. This nation is again involved in a righteous war. For the sake of suffering humanity, and in behalf of those eternal principles of right upon which our nation is founded, the United States have declared the

people of Cuba free and independent, and now stand, as the champions of liberty, with unsheathed swords, ready to assist the liberty loving people of Cuba in maintaining their independence. In the midst of such conditions the invocation of the guidance and blessing of the God of Righteousness and Equity is a peculiarly appropriate privilege. Let the ranks be filled, the worship sincere; "the event is in the hands of God."

Camp Chaplains are reminded of their duty to report the observance of Memorial Day immediately thereafter to their respective Division Chaplains.

Division Chaplains are urged to be prompt in securing and consolidating the reports of Camp Chaplains, and in forwarding consolidated reports to this Department.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

HARRY LAWRENCE VEAZEY,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A., }
ROOM 947, TREMONT BUILDING, }

BOSTON, MASS., May 4, 1898.

The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated. It is earnestly hoped the day may be appropriately observed by every member of the Order.

By command of

CHARLES K. DARLING,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:



Fred Bolton

Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U.S.A. }

BOSTON, MASS., Nov. 26, 1897.

Dear Sir and Brother: A careful study of the condition of the Order, leads the Commander-in-Chief to believe that the time is ripe for materially increasing the numerical strength, social standing and public influence of the Sons of Veterans.

Encouraging reports of an awakening interest along the line are daily coming to these headquarters and it is with a knowledge of your able and faithful services in the past that we call upon you to again put your shoulder to the wheel and give the weight of your energetic co-operation to a concerted movement for the upbuilding of the Order.

There must be in your Division and the immediate section in which you reside, a large number of recruits who can be induced to join with us in the duties of the Order; there must be many sons of the soldiers who sacrificed

so much for the nation and its flag, proud of their ancestry, animated by filial love and devotion, who would gladly affiliate with an organization that stands on the broad and patriotic platform of the Sons of Veterans. It is believed that if their peculiar heritage and the distinctive characteristics of our Order are properly explained, they will appreciate their privileges, enlist in the work, and loyally serve this grand body, in which you have given so much of time and service.

We desire to inaugurate a movement that will check the losses we have sustained in the past; that will turn the tide of retrogression to a substantial movement to the front; with a steady gain in power, and an advancement to something like the membership we should possess. To do this, and to assure success, we ask you to give your personal assistance. You can do much that will prove beneficial in your locality; you can enlist able workers whom you know better than we, whose influence will be advantageous. All this we ask you to do with a spirit of determination to build up the membership. What has been stated above is merely to convey the objects and intentions of this appeal for your personal services. The best methods to employ are left to your good judgment and discretion. Suffice it to say that we have called upon the Past Division Commanders of *every Division*, together with other active officials and able workers throughout the Order, to render similar service. From this force of faithful brothers, all working with one object in view, we should accomplish what is needed and so desirable at this time. In conclusion, we bespeak your loyal co-operation, for "in unity there is strength," and no failure can result if all will do their part.

Fraternally yours,

FRED E. BOLTON,
Adjutant-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there be no objections the report of the Adjutant-General will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports, under the rule. Is there objection?

BROTHERS HOLDING COMMISSIONS IN THE U.S. ARMY.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Senior Vice-Commander, I desire to move at this time that the Adjutant-General be instructed to append to the list in his report of the brothers who are now holding commissions in the United States Army, the names of all other brothers, members of the Order of Sons of Veterans, who are now holding commissions and serving at this time in the army of the United States that may be furnished him by the several Divisions. There are several members of the Order in the Division of Minnesota who are now holding commissions and serving in the army at the front, whose names don't appear in the Adjutant-General's list, and I have no doubt there are many in other Divisions of the Order. I therefore move that the Adjutant-General append to his list such other names as the members present may be able to give him, of members of the Order, in all the States, who hold commissions and are serving their country in the volunteer army.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Senior Vice-Commander, I suggest that probably it would be well to have the Committee on Credentials make a supplemental report at this time. I do it out of deference to our record. With all due respect to our friend from Minnesota, I understood from the report of the Committee on Credentials, already

made, that the Division of Minnesota had not yet been granted the privileges of this floor, and it would look peculiar in our record if we received motions from delegates who have not been granted the privilege of the floor. I understand that the matter has been fixed up and they are now entitled to representation in this Encampment, but until the Committee on Credentials makes a further report, our record does not show that fact, and under those circumstances it is hardly in proper form to receive this motion. I would ask if the Committee on Credentials has not a supplemental report to give us on this matter.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Has the Committee on Credentials a supplemental report to make?

The Adjutant-General: Senior Vice-Commander, I will state that while I was reading my report the figuring up of the financial obligation of the Minnesota Division was going on, and I understand they have settled everything. The credentials of certain delegates of the Minnesota Division have been presented, as well as those from several other Divisions, which will make it necessary for the Committee on Credentials to make a further report. If my associates have no objection I can state now as a report from the Committee on Credentials that eleven other brothers have presented their credentials and been accredited as members of the Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If the other members of the committee have no objection the Adjutant-General will add those names to the roll. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and they will be so added, and we will consider the statement by the Adjutant-General as a report from the committee. That being so, the motion of Brother Adams is in order.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, it is proper that this supplemental report should be passed upon by the Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials is before you. What is your pleasure?

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the report of the committee, the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is now on the motion of Brother Adams of Minnesota. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed, the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Next in order is the report of Quartermaster-General Loebenstein.

Quartermaster-General Loebenstein submitted and read the following report:—

TO CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report of the business of the Quartermaster-General's Department for the term ending Aug. 31, 1898.

Report Supplemental to Report to Sixteenth Annual Encampment.

Cash on hand, as shown by report	\$1,159 91	
Received for <i>per capita</i> tax	360 62	
" " charter fees	12 00	
		\$1,532 53
Paid for supplies	8 77	
" " office expenses	52 71	
" " general expenses	36 00	
" " salaries	125 00	
" " expenses Sixteenth Annual Encampment	599 64	
		822 12
Balance cash on hand at beginning administration		\$710 41

Receipts and Expenditures from Sept. 13, 1897, to Aug. 31, 1898.

RECEIPTS.		
Cash on hand	\$710 41	
Cash received for supplies	\$5,118 07	
" " " <i>per capita</i> tax	5,356 45	
" " " charter fees	333 50	
		\$10,808 02
Total cash receipts		\$11,518 43

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment in addition to those paid by preceding administration:—

W. S. Garber, stenographer	\$81 70	
Proceedings	680 95	
Postage on proceedings	18 20	
Freight on proceedings	12 75	
Drayage, express, etc. (Indpls.)	10 85	
		\$804 45
Traveling expenses:		
Commander-in-Chief	\$119 01	
Adjutant-General	88 36	
Quartermaster-General	11 68	
Chaplain-in-Chief	15 00	
		234 05
Supplies:		
Badges and decorations	\$2,871 10	
Camp and Division supplies	1,163 28	
Cost of shipping	160 32	
Wrapping paper, twine, etc.	16 93	
Insurance	23 80	
		4,235 43
Office expenses:		
Rent, Commandery	\$255 00	
" Quartermaster-General	360 00	
Light and toilet supplies, Commandery	25 33	
" " " Q.-M.-General	20 76	
Telegrams and express, Commandery	27 22	
" " " Q.-M.-General	18 69	
Amount carried forward	\$707 00	

Amount brought forward	\$707 00	
Postage, Commandery	105 73	
" Q.M.-General	36 88	
Stationery, all National officers	55 00	
" Commandery	26 80	
" Q M.-General	1 57	
Miscellaneous	10 94	
		943 92
General expenses :		
Moving Commandery Headquarters	59 49	
Insurance Commandery furniture	4 80	
Expenses, Inspector-General	41 30	
Password and countersign	5 55	
Blanks furnished free to Divisions	26 25	
Commandery, ribbon	16 00	
Records	9 25	
Miscellaneous	15 75	
		178 39
Salaries		2,750 00
General Orders		353 47
Seventeenth Annual Encampment		3 27
Tax refunded to Divisions		9 02
Miscellaneous		19 84
Total expenditures		9,531 84
Balance cash on hand		\$1,986 59
Supplies on hand, inventoried at cost		1,342 72

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief on Sept. 13, 1897, was as follows : —

General Account, Sept. 13, 1897.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture	\$535 50	Due to Divisions	\$3 00
Supplies	1,329 50	Surplus	2,579 57
Cash	710 41		
Due from Divisions	7 16		
	<u>\$2,582 57</u>		<u>\$2,582 57</u>

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief at the close of business Aug. 31, 1898, is as follows : —

General Account, Aug. 31, 1898.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture	\$481 95	Due to Divisions	\$19 62
Supplies	1,342 72	Surplus	3,821 60
Cash	1,986 59		
Due from Divisions	29 96		
	<u>\$3,841 22</u>		<u>\$3,841 22</u>

The account of Profit and Loss from Sept. 1, 1897, to Aug. 31, 1898, is as follows : —

Profit and Loss, Sept. 1, 1897, to Aug. 31, 1898.

LOSSES.		GAINS.	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture, (10% reduction),	\$53 55	Charter fees	\$345 50
Supplies	41 21	<i>Per Capita</i> tax	5,706 45
Salaries	2,875 00	Supplies	914 64
General Orders	353 47		
Traveling expenses	234 05		
Office expenses	996 63		
General expenses	214 39		
Sixteenth Ann'l Encampm't,	1,404 09		
Seventeenth "	3 27		
Balance (net gain)	790 93		
	<u>\$6,966 59</u>		<u>\$6,966 59</u>

Comparative Table of Receipts.

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Received from predecessor	\$211 95	\$687 12	\$710 41
" for supplies	5,509 45	4,660 93	5,118 07
" " <i>per capita</i> tax	6,072 29	4,909 07	5,356 45
" " charter fees	475 00	357 26	333 50
" " miscellaneous	507 20	5 62	
Totals	<u>\$12,775 89</u>	<u>\$10,620 00</u>	<u>\$11,518 43</u>

Comparative Table of Expenditures.

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Debts of preceding administration (A)	\$1,072 86	\$	\$
Expenses of preceding annual meeting, in addition to those paid by preceding administration	660 43	594 48	804 45
Traveling expenses of Commander-in-Chief and Staff	146 40	228 03	234 05
Supplies:			
Badges and decorations	2,695 60	2,681 60	2,871 10
Camp and Division supplies	1 313 24	768 60	1,163 28
Cost of shipment (B)			
Wrapping paper, insurance, etc.	39 94	37 21	40 73
Furniture	23 75	7 30	
General Orders	281 90	249 48	353 47
Salaries	2,750 00	2,875 00	2,750 00
Office expenses:			
Rent	445 00	690 00	615 00
Telegrams, postage and stationery (C),			
Miscellaneous	81 09	70 80	57 03
General expenses:			
Transfer Commandery Headquarters	185 34	114 11	59 49
Records	20 85	21 43	9 25
Miscellaneous	479 62	435 26	109 65
Stationery	118 38	190 22	83 37
Telegraphing	73 23	38 12	45 91
Postage	228 45	275 59	142 61
Cost of shipping supplies and other express charges	199 59	134 59	160 32
Other items	532 90	48 27	32 13
Totals	<u>\$11,348 57</u>	<u>\$9,460 09</u>	<u>\$9,531 84</u>

(A) Includes the amount paid on account of "Rowley Claim"

(B) Included in express item.

(C) Included in telegraph, postage and stationery items.

The amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the present administration was \$710.41, and the surplus account had a credit of \$2,579.57. We had on hand, at the close of business on Aug. 31, 1898, \$1,986.59, and a surplus of \$3,821.60. I am very glad that the financial complications, which one year ago seemed imminent, have not confronted us, and that increased revenues from *per capita* tax and profits on supplies enable us to make the satisfactory showing above indicated. Commander-in-Chief Darling and Adjutant-General Bolton have labored unceasingly to increase our revenues and to curtail our expenditures, and their success in both directions is plainly shown by the satisfactory condition of our finances above reported.

The last Encampment ordered that a condensed history of the Order be incorporated in the next edition of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations to be printed. A sketch was prepared, but as there appears to be some controversy regarding certain facts pertaining to the earlier history of the Order, it was deemed best to defer publication of such sketch until after action could be taken thereon by a committee of this Encampment.

Divisions are indebted to the Commandery-in-Chief as follows: Oregon, \$0.22; West Virginia, \$0.20; Gulf, \$4.61.

The following Divisions have balances due them: Colorado, \$2.55; Connecticut, \$0.32; Illinois, \$0.02; Indiana, \$0.56; Kansas, \$0.73; Maine, \$0.25; Nebraska, \$0.85; New Hampshire, \$0.16; Pennsylvania, \$12.59; Rhode Island, \$0.13; South Dakota, \$0.66; Vermont, \$0.20; Wisconsin, \$0.60.

The following Divisions are, at the date of this report, in arrears for *per capita* tax for the quarter ending June 30, 1898: Oregon, West Virginia and Gulf.

I have received the bonds, duly approved by the Commander-in-Chief, of the Commanders of the Divisions of Alabama and Tennessee, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota and West Virginia. The Commanders of California, Indiana and Vermont, having been re-elected, filed no new bond.

In concluding this, my final report as Quartermaster-General, I wish to express my gratitude to the various Division officers with whom I have had official relations, for the uniform courtesy which has marked their intercourse with my department. To Past Commanders-in-Chief Hall, Maccabe, Bundy, Russell and Rake, and their respective Adjutant-Generals, I beg to again extend my warmest thanks for very many acts of kindness. And to Commander-in-Chief Darling and Adjutant-General Bolton I can but say that the warm personal friendship of the past years has been more firmly cemented by the official relations of the year now closing. May God grant a safe return to our midst of our gallant Commander-in-Chief, now in the service of our country, and may health and success attend the patriotic soldier at the front and his efficient Adjutant-General, whose patriotic devotion to our Order has brought him the affectionate regard of all who know him.

May the Great Commander bless and prosper the Order that I have had the honor to serve for six years past, and enable me to be of some service to the Order we all love.

Fraternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report of the Quartermaster-General will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports, under the rule. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the report is so referred.

Next in order is the report of the Inspector-General.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Inspector-General J. Frank Durston of New York, submitted and read the following report: —

FRED E. BOLTON, *Adjutant-General,*
Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Boston, Mass.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following as my report as Inspector-General during the past year.

It is a matter of regret that it is incomplete, as a special effort was made to secure an accurate account of the standing of the entire Order.

All Division Headquarters were inspected and the general result was very gratifying. The following consolidation will convey an idea as to the condition in which the Assistant Inspectors-General found the various Headquarters to which they were assigned: —

1. Every Division has a charter.
2. Every Division has a regularly adopted set of By-Laws conforming with the present C., R. & R., except Nebraska, Oregon, Colorado and the Gulf.
3. (a) All Divisions keep a record of their Division proceedings, and all possess the minutes of their Division Council meetings except Washington.
3. (b) All Divisions keep a register of members.
3. (c) A Roster of officers is kept by all Divisions.
3. (d) All Divisions keep a record of commissions.
3. (e) Colorado, Wisconsin and West Virginia do not keep a record of dispensations; the rest do.
3. (f) Wisconsin, Illinois, Connecticut and Vermont are the only Divisions who do not possess a Black Book properly kept.
3. (g) An Adjutant's Cash Book is kept by all Divisions.
3. (h) All Division Quartermasters keep a Cash Book.
3. (i) All Divisions except Wisconsin and Massachusetts keep a Ledger.
4. All Divisions keep an accurate account with each Camp except Colorado.
5. At the time of this inspection all reports had been forwarded and duplicates were on file at Division Headquarters.

6. Division accounts are properly kept in all Divisions except Colorado.

7. The Divisions reported in debt are Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana and the Gulf; Iowa owing the least, \$30.00, and Kansas the most, \$350.00, the total indebtedness being \$736.78.

8. All Divisions except one have money in their treasury, the total cash balance being \$3,439.99, a decrease from last year of \$318.25, and an average of \$118.62. Massachusetts leads with the largest amount, \$850.00, Pennsylvania follows with \$441.00, and New York is third with \$406.46.

The smallest cash balance is shown by Maryland, who possesses \$13.10, while the Gulf reports a deficit of \$85.00.

9. All Divisions but Indiana have supplies on hand, the total value being \$1,519.00, an average of \$52.38.

10. All supplies in use are furnished by the Commandery-in-Chief, and are of current issue.

11. All Division Commanders have filed their bond with the Commander in-Chief, the average figure being \$2,000.00.

12. Oregon, West Virginia, Illinois and the Gulf are not secured by bond from their Division Quartermasters; all other Divisions have bonds averaging \$1,000.00 each.

13. There seems to be a great difference of opinion regarding the value of the services of the Division Adjutants and Quartermasters. Five Divisions pay no salaries and the remainder give compensation ranging from \$1.00 each in Kentucky and California, to the Division of Pennsylvania, whose salary list amounts to \$1,100.00, while Ohio allows its Adjutant twenty per cent of the dues collected, and its Quartermaster receives ten per cent of all supplies sold.

14. Pennsylvania has the honor of having the largest membership, viz., 5,947, and South Dakota reports 85 members in good standing, although the Division Inspector accounts for 151. Why this difference occurs, I am unable to say; the total membership amounting to 32,377, an average of 1,116.

15. 1,211 Camps were reported in good standing, an average of 42 to each Division.

16, 17, 18, 19. The total number of Camps organized is 4,936, the total number disbanded, 3,007; the total suspended and not reinstated, 869. Total number of Camps suspended during the last year, 418. Owing to the incompleteness of the records of several Divisions, these figures are approximate.

20. Twenty-six Divisions rendered the G.A.R. service the past year and three did not.

21. Seven Divisions held Field Days and twenty-two did not.

22. According to the reports of the Assistant Inspectors-General, all correspondence is promptly and thoroughly attended to.

23. All General Orders of the Commander-in-Chief are promptly forwarded from all Division Headquarters to their respective Camps.

24. All Camp requisitions are promptly filled by the Division Quartermasters.

25. (*a, b, c, d*) All Division Commanders, Adjutants, Inspectors and Mustering Officers are familiar with the secret work.

26. Twenty-seven Division Commanders issue circulars to, and correspond with the G.A.R. Posts relative to the organization of new Camps, and two do not.

27. On the whole, the G.A.R. is in hearty sympathy with our Order, although a few exceptions were reported.

28, 29. The L.A.S. is established in all but 7 Divisions, and has proved itself to be of great benefit in many ways.

30. In 15 Divisions the social feature predominates; 5 are more inclined to be military, while in 6 Divisions the sentiment is about equally divided.

31, 32. Two Divisions charge \$12.00 for a charter, 15 secure \$15.00, one asks \$18.00, nine demand \$20.00, and one obtains \$22.00. A charter and all Camp supplies are furnished and some Divisions include a Camp seal and the expenses of the Mustering Officer.

33. The total cost of the inspection of 29 Division Headquarters amounted to \$372.05, an increase over last year of \$93.08, and an average of \$12.83 to each Division.

After a careful study of the results obtained, I am of the opinion that the practice of sending an Inspector from an outside Division is a useless expenditure of money, and believe that the chairman of the Division Council, who visits his Division Headquarters at least once each year, is perfectly competent to perform the duties required of an Assistant Inspector-General and recommend that my successor make a test of this method of inspection.

It was deemed unnecessary to inspect the Headquarters of the Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, as this Department was fully aware of the splendid condition of these two offices.

The following is a correct list of my Assistant Inspectors-General, to whom I desire to extend my most sincere thanks for the prompt and intelligent manner in which they discharged their duties.

<i>Division.</i>	<i>Asst. Inspectors-General.</i>	<i>Address.</i>
Alabama and Tennessee	V. Gilb, Jr.	Birmingham, Ala.
California and H.I.	F. P. Shipley	Oakland, Cal.
Colorado	C. Borin	Oberlin, Kan.
Connecticut	W. M. P. Bowen	Providence, R.I.
Gulf	Josiah Gross	New Orleans, La.
Illinois	Geo. E. Cogshall	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Indiana	James W. Noel	Indianapolis, Ind.
Iowa	Charles Townsend	Benton, Wis.
Kansas	William H. Russell	LaCrosse, Kan.
Kentucky	George H. Capito	Louisville, Ky.
Maine	Fred E. Bolton	Boston, Mass.
Maryland	Wildun Scott	Milton, Pa.
Massachusetts	George E. Cox	Hartford, Conn.
Michigan	William G. Dustin	Dwight, Ill.
Minnesota	W. J. Patton	Marinette, Wis.
Missouri	E. W. Raymond	St. Louis, Mo.
Nebraska	George F. Wolz	Fremont, Neb.
New Hampshire	R. L. Whitcomb	Portland, Me.
New Jersey	E. R. Campbell	Washington, D.C.

<i>Division.</i>	<i>Asst. Inspectors-General.</i>	<i>Address.</i>
New York	Arthur B. Spink . . .	Providence, R.I.
Ohio	C. J. Deckman . . .	Malvern, O.
Oregon	R. J. Courtney . . .	Okobojo, S.D.
Pennsylvania	W. S. Oberdorf . . .	Dansville, N.Y.
Rhode Island	Edward T. Monahan . .	Underhill, Vt.
South Dakota	C. B. Cook	Arlington, S.D.
Vermont	H. O. Bixby	Chelsea, Vt.
Washington	E. W. Young	Seattle, Wash.
West Virginia	F. W. Myers	Parkersburg, W. Va.
Wisconsin	A. T. Wilson	Cedar Rapids, Ia.

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

Every Division except Ohio submitted reports of inspection, and the general average was fair. That more good does not result from our Camp inspections is due in a large measure to the carelessness and ignorance of the Assistant Inspectors. If they performed their full duty the present method would materially strengthen and build up the Order, instead of resolving itself into a farce, as is the case in many instances.

While the present blank is far from satisfactory, there are several reasons why no substitute is submitted, although such a course was contemplated at one time, and a request made in General Orders No. 1, series of 1898, of the Commander-in-Chief, for suggestions upon the subject.

Although this notification was supposed to reach every member, no responses were received, and the only inference to be drawn was that the membership at large were either satisfied with the present blank or indifferent as to the future progress of our Order.

Under our present C., R. & R., a Camp may be military or social, they may work the degrees or not just as they see fit; and the only way to properly inspect them would be to place each one in its own class and mark it accordingly.

Much as I should like to do this I am forced to admit that in my opinion such a method is far beyond the comprehension of the average Assistant Inspector, whose mental facilities are taxed to the utmost in order to fill out our present simple blank in a manner that can be understood by his superiors.

The reports of some Division Inspectors were models of neatness and accuracy, while others contained much room for improvement.

Some were practically of no value, containing many errors and omissions and causing considerable delay and annoyance, as it was necessary to thoroughly revise and correct them before they were of the slightest use.

The first Division to report was Rhode Island. The papers were received on Dec. 16, 1897, and the Inspector, William P. O'Flaherty, deserves much credit for his promptness.

In three Divisions, Rhode Island, Colorado and Iowa, every Camp in the Division was inspected.

Last year nine Divisions reported every Camp as having been visited by the Inspector or his assistants.

The greatest drawback met with was the inaccuracy of the Division

Inspectors' consolidated reports, fully fifty per cent of them containing errors of one kind or another. In addition to this two reports were on old forms and the fact that the questions and numbers did not correspond, entailed an enormous amount of labor upon this department.

A comparative statement of the results obtained from questions Nos. 1 to 20, inclusive, follows; one reason for the poor showing being the absence of Ohio from the calculations.

1. 434 Captains received a mark of Excellent on this question, a loss from last year of 45; 197 were marked Good, 190 Fair and 147 Poor.

2. 253 Captains were marked Perfect on their degree work, a gain of 30; 179 secured Good, 223 Fair and 292 Poor.

3. 323 First Lieutenants were Perfect in their ritualistic work, a gain of 7; 163 were Good, 267 Fair and 214 Poor.

4. 297 Second Lieutenants have committed their work to memory, a loss of 2; 163 were Good, 246 Fair and 252 Poor.

5. 264 Chaplains were Perfect, a loss of 13; 184 were Good, 247 Fair and 268 Poor.

6. 342 Sergeants of the Guard have memorized their parts, a gain of 9; 194 were Good, 235 Fair and 190 Poor.

7. But 436 officers were regular in their attendance, a loss of 37; 308 were Good, 163 Fair and 64 Poor.

8. 438 Camps show a gain in membership since last year, a loss of 6; 157 were Good, 117 Fair and 249 Poor.

9. 745 Camp Records were correctly and well kept, a loss of 67; 142 were Good, 60 Fair and 30 Poor.

10. It is evident that the Quartermaster Sergeants are gaining the confidence of their superior officers, as but 765 have filed bonds, a decrease of 73; 81 were Good, 50 Fair and 74 Poor.

11. 516 Camp officers are reported as uniformed, a loss of 23; while 115 were nearly so, 101 in part and 231 have none at all.

12. 439 Camp officers wear rank straps and side-arms, a loss of 49; 176 received a rating of Good on this question, 132 were Fair and 213 possessed none at all.

13. 735 Camp rooms are properly equipped, and are marked Excellent, a loss of 68; 131 were Good, 60 Fair and 37 Poor.

14. 497 Staff officers are reported as being provided with proper chevrons, a loss of 517; 44 were Good, 63 Fair and 344 Poor.

15. 472 Camps were reported as fully uniformed, a loss of 457; 122 were partly uniformed, 116 made a Fair showing and 238 possess none whatever.

16. 891 Camps always present their recruits with a badge, a loss of 87. It is strange that out of 970 Camps inspected, 79 should confess that they make no attempt to perform this simple yet important duty. 14 Camps present badges most of the time, 12 do it occasionally and 58 omit it entirely.

17. General Orders are read and filed in 94 per cent of the Camps inspected, 33 Camps read them generally, 16 only occasionally, and in 19 Camps no pretense is made of paying the slightest attention to the commands of their superior officers.

18. 866 of the Camps inspected observed Memorial Day; 32 were marked Good, 16 Fair and 49 disregarded the day entirely.

19. Reports and dues are forwarded promptly in 826 Camps; 32 are Good in this respect, 34 Fair and 30 Poor.

20. 828 Camps forwarded their Surgeons' and Chaplains' reports promptly, 31 received mark of Good, 28 were Fair and 38 Poor.

The following information is gathered from the replies to questions Nos. 21 to 37, and may be of interest to students of our progress: —

21. Total number of members in good standing, 30,429; average 1,049.

22. Number of members dropped during the last year, 2,988; average, 103.

23. Number of special meetings held, 1,302; average, 45.

24. Total value of Camp property, \$265,306.01; average, \$9,148.49.

25. Amount of funds over total indebtedness, \$137,181.31; average, \$4,730.39.

26. Amount charged for annual dues, \$2,463.21; average, \$84.94.

27. Amount charged for muster fee, \$1,945.05; average, \$67.07.

28. (a) Number of members relieved, 728; average, 25.

28. (b) Amount expended, \$8,821.40; average, \$304.19.

29. Money expended for the relief of veterans and their families, \$1,208.55; average, \$41.67.

30. Number of Camps equipped, 661, Cavalry, 23, Artillery, 29, Infantry, 608, Signal Corps, 1, Ambulance Corps, 1.

31. Number of members equipped with arms and accoutrements, 9,122; average, 315.

32. (a) Number of Camps who engage in regular company drills, 331; average, 11.

32. (b) Number who do not, 599; average, 21.

33. (a) Number of Camps who have aided the local G.A.R. or W.R.C., 495; average, 17.

33. (b) Number who have not, 663; average, 16.

34. (a) Number of Camps having a Ladies' Aid Society, 265; average, 9.

34. (b) Number who do not, 671; average, 23.

35. (a) Number of Camps where local G.A.R. attend meetings and encourage the Camp, 710; average, 24.

35. (b) Number who do not, 328; average, 11.

36. (a) Number of Camps who hold social gatherings, 726; average, 25.

36. (b) Number who do not, 309; average, 11.

37. Total cost of Camp inspection, \$1,532.53; average, \$52.85.

Not all of the Division Inspectors availed themselves of the opportunity of expressing their opinions relative to the inspection; the remarks of those who saw fit to do so are worth reproducing here.

CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

General Average, 56 per cent; First-class 2, Second-class 6, Third-class 1.

"As far as I have seen, this Division has good and efficient officers, fully qualified for the positions which they hold. I find that some of the Camps are backward in paying their dues, and are therefore suspended, which handicaps us greatly. I wish to commend Camp 7 of Pasadena, which is the best in the Division, with thirty-six members. They performed the entire work without the aid of a ritual and obtained a marking of 91 per cent."

F. C. HUNT, *Inspector*.

COLORADO.

General Average, 78 per cent; First-class 5, Second-class 2, Third-class 0.

"This report covers the inspection of every Camp in the Colorado Division, to which the assistant inspectors were appointed, and the general average, viz.: 78 per cent, is therefore the general average of the entire Division. The efficiency of the officers of the Division is good. Of the Camps, some are good and some are not. The Sons of Veterans Order here is not booming. The National Guard of the State catches all those who are fond of the military feature. In a majority of cases the enthusiasm dies out for want of the social feature in a short time after a recruit is mustered. In my judgment there should be legislation enacted making the organization a strictly military one, making it compulsory for each recruit to purchase a uniform, of whatever arm the organization may decide upon, before he is mustered in. More recruits would be secured, and better material than we now have."

HENRY C. LUTHER, *Inspector*.

CONNECTICUT.

General Average, 85 per cent; First-class 22, Second-class 3, Third-class 0.

"Was unable to secure an inspection of Camps 18 and 49."

W. A. CHASE, *Inspector*.

THE GULF.

General Average, 28 per cent; First-class 0, Second-class 4, Third-class 0.

"The camps in this Division are scattered and isolated. They extend from Florida to Louisiana and Mississippi, making an inspection difficult. The officers are zealous and faithful, but the absence of contact with brothers of the North prevents them from being as efficient as desirable. The Gulf Division is really a missionary field; it is holding its own, even more, it is growing stronger, but slowly."

WILLIAM JEFFERSON, *Inspector*.

INDIANA.

General Average, 33 per cent; First-class 34, Second-class 28, Third-class 0.

"All officers of this Division are working hard and doing all they can for the welfare of the Order, trying to get the weak Camps in line again. Some are coming and some are very far on the downward course. There are twenty-one Camps who were not inspected, the reasons being "that they did not wish to bother with it," and some have no place of meeting or have no property, and are not in shape to be inspected. Some of these twenty-one Camps are so far behind with their per capita tax that it is doubtful if they can ever be reinstated. All efforts to get them back seem to be of no use. All has been done that can be done, and forty-six Camps were inspected."

W. A. SMITH, *Inspector*.

IOWA.

General Average, 74 per cent; First-class 34, Second-class 28, Third-class 0.

"With permission from Inspector General, dated Oct. 26, 1897, and Dec. 6, 1897, the Division Inspector was given power to appoint assistant inspectors to inspect their own Camps where such a course was deemed absolutely necessary."

A. B. HANCOCK, *Inspector*.

KENTUCKY.

General Average, 82 per cent; First-class 11, Second-class 2, Third-class 0.

"The Division has increased in Camps and I believe in numbers also. The general work performed by the Camps is very much better and more enthusiastic than on inspection nights. The complaint in this Division is the long time consumed by the ritual, even for general business; "too much talk" in the general order of business, there being eighteen orders of business while in other orders seven or eight are considered ample. The degree work is so lengthy that no Camp, except possibly Camp 9, works the three degrees, and few even the first degree; they simply obligate the new member, condense the first degree and immediately obligate in the other two degrees."

CHARLES GERMAN, *Inspector*.

MAINE.

General Average, 69 per cent; First-class 25, Second-class 19, Third-class 2.

"The results of the inspection of the Camps of this Division shows that we are in practically the same condition as one year ago. We were unable to inspect four of our Camps so that the general average was kept down to about the same as last year. As a whole, the Division is in better condition than one year ago. The officers take more pride in their work, and a larger per cent have committed the work than on any previous year. The brothers of the Maine Division are loyal to the interests of the Order, and are endeavoring to increase more and more each year the efficiency and influence of the Division in our Commonwealth as well as in the National Councils of our Order."

E. N. CORSON, *Inspector*.

MARYLAND.

General Average, 62 per cent; First-class 9, Second-class 11, Third-class 4.

"Camps not reporting are classified in the third class and are marked zero in all questions except nineteen and twenty, which ratings were secured from Division Headquarters."

EDWARD R. FRENCH, *Inspector*.

MASSACHUSETTS.

General Average, 85 per cent; First-class 110, Second-class 20, Third-class 4.

"The Division on the whole is in better condition than last year. There has been a gain in membership, and fewer brothers dropped. The value of the property has increased \$11,690. There have been fewer calls for relief, both from veterans and brothers, consequently not so large an amount has been expended in that direction. The officers on the whole appear to understand their several duties, and are active and efficient."

FRED E. WARNER, *Inspector*.

MICHIGAN.

General Average, 61 per cent; First-class 30, Second-class 15, Third-class 3.

"The comparatively poor showing in ritualistic work is due to the fact that many of our camps are new ones. The membership of the Division has more than doubled during the past year."

GEORGE W. DAVIS, *Inspector*.

MINNESOTA.

General Average, 33 per cent; First-class 8, Second-class 12, Third-class 5.

"On January 1, 1898, there were fifty Camps in the Minnesota Division, thirty-two of which were in good standing and eighteen were in arrears. The thirty-two Camps in good standing reported a total membership of 804. The inspection shows that the Minnesota Division is in a very poor condition. Very few Camps are strong, either numerically or financially, and there is a general lack of interest and enthusiasm that will be the undoing of the Division. An earnest effort was made to have every Camp inspected. Where Camps could not afford the expense, the Division Commander appointed a local member as an assistant inspector, but even under this arrangement it was found that fifty per cent of the camps were too dead to even attempt to hold an inspection."

MILTON S. MEAD, *Inspector*.

MISSOURI.

General Average, 78 per cent; First-class 18, Second-class 14, Third-class 2.
 "Three of the seven camps not inspected were not subject to inspection. My first report was received on October 20, 1897, and the last on February 26, 1898."

L. B. PHILO, *Inspector*.

NEBRASKA.

General Average, 70 per cent; First-class 8, Second-class 11, Third-class 1.
 "I have the honor to submit herewith my report as Inspector of the Nebraska Division. I cannot say that this is an A No. 1 Division. The inspection does not show it. We are second-class good and strong however. We have some especially strong Camps, and some too poor to pay the expenses of an inspection. One Camp reports itself \$1.85 in debt, another \$.10 on hand, etc. That the Assistant Inspectors have had compassion on these Camps is evidenced by the fact that it cost but \$11.85 to inspect the entire Division. Camp 12 at Wahoo stands highest with 96 per cent, Camp 5, Fremont, is second with 95 per cent, while Camp 72, South Omaha, is third, with 90 per cent. The "booby" Camp of the State is No. 3, located at Fairmount, having but 47 per cent. This, however, is a new Camp, which may excuse it somewhat, although at the time of its inspection it had been in existence some eight months. It seemed hard for its officers to get properly onto the ropes and get things moving smoothly. This is the only third-class Camp in the Division.

"Some Camps may consider their marking too low, but each had what it seemed to deserve. These are not padded returns. The work has been done on the presumption that the exact condition of each Camp was wanted. As to the officers, I can say but little. Much good work has been done by the Commander in organizing new Camps. The Division, I understand, is out of debt, and may now be said to have its head above water, ready to do some effective work."

R. M. TYSON, *Inspector*.

NEW YORK.

General Average, 83 per cent; First-class 76, Second-class 26, Third-class 2.
 "I have the honor to submit the enclosed as my report of the inspection of the New York Division. I am glad to say that we are on the increase, and are gaining ground every day. The Division officers are competent and faithful, and deserve much praise for the splendid condition of the Order in this State. Many new Camps have been organized during the past year, and a large number of suspended ones reinstated. Some of the Camps inspected were not in good standing. This policy was adopted for the reason that it would tend to strengthen and encourage them, and the results fully sustained the belief. The ritualistic work and military features show a marked improvement over last year."

FRANK K. MAPLES, *Inspector*.

OREGON.

General Average, 52 per cent; First-class 1, Second-class 3, Third-class 1.
 "In making this report of the Division inspection, I find that no P. W. or C. S. has been issued since January, 1897. That U. S. Grant Camp No 9 lost its entire Camp equipage by fire Dec. 3, 1897. That the G.A.R. Posts interest themselves only in one Camp in the entire Division. That the Division officers generally are efficient and work hard and zealously to promote the welfare of the Order. That only through the assistance of the Division Commander is it possible to make this report, as all inspections have been made under the personal supervision of the Commander or a member of his staff."

CHARLES B. ORAI, *Inspector*.

PENNSYLVANIA.

General Average, 69 per cent; First-class 101, Second-class 13, Third-class 0.
 "I have the honor to submit herewith my consolidated report of the annual inspection of the Pennsylvania Division, giving the total average and percentage

of all Camps inspected on each question. I also include tables, giving the Camps with a percentage of ninety-seven or over; the Camps with a valuation of \$1000 or over; the Camps with a membership of 100 or over; and a list of the Camps in good standing that were not inspected.

"I regret to have to record the fact that a number of the brothers detailed as assistant inspectors were careless and negligent in their work, while the instructions were ample and explicit, many of the assistant inspectors appear to have given but little attention to them, as they filled out the reports according to their own ideas, and this necessitated much additional labor upon this department. Some of the assistant inspectors failed entirely to perform the duties assigned to them. In marking the Camps I have been as lenient as possible, consistent with the proper performance of the duties of my office. Our main point of weakness is in the first six questions relating to the ritualistic work. The low percentage obtained by many of the Camps and the general average of the Division, are materially affected by the negligence or indifference of the five principle officers of the Camp. This ought not to be, and we hope that the present year will show a decided improvement in this feature of inspection. I am aware of the fact that the present ritual is not regarded with favor throughout the Division, especially by the Camps with a low percentage in the first six questions, but the importance of securing a good record for the Camps and Division at the annual inspection should be sufficient incentive for vigorous work in this direction. I have no particular recommendations to make in regard to the ritual, the work in it is grand and beautiful, and it is not beyond the abilities of the average Camp to render. As I said above, our main weakness is not in the ritual, but is in the first six questions, and when our Camps overcome this obstacle, success will be ours. We deem further comment upon the report unnecessary. In addition to the compilation of this report I personally inspected three Camps; made twenty official visits, and conducted a very large correspondence. In conclusion I desire to express to the Division Commander and staff and to the assistant inspectors my appreciation of courtesies received and assistance rendered in the performance of the duties of my office."

FOREST W. BRIGGS, *Inspector*.

RHODE ISLAND.

General Average, 83 per cent; First-class 14, Second-class 0, Third-class 0.

"The Division is in good condition considering the circumstances under which it has labored during the past year, although there is some lack of enthusiasm among a few Camp officers. Appeals have been made to the various G. A. R. Posts to aid and assist the Camps with the results as shown in this report. The Division Commander and staff, have been untiring in their efforts to increase the membership and welfare of the Division."

MICHAEL P. O'FLAHERTY, *Inspector*.

VERMONT.

General Average, 64 per cent; First-class 20, Second-class 12, Third-class 6.

"The Division is once more on the gain, not only in numbers, but in enthusiasm for the Order. The hospitality and hearty goodwill of the brothers is shown by the fact that nearly every Camp in good standing entertained the inspecting officer at its own expense. It is very noticeable that where the Grand Army assist and encourage the brothers by their presence at the meetings, there our best Camps exist, and the downfall of many Camps is traceable to the lack of this support."

IRA E. MORSE, *Inspector*.

WISCONSIN.

General Average, 68 per cent; First-class 17, Second-class 10, Third-class 0.

"The Camps in this Division are widely scattered, and are suffering from the depression of the times. Our best Camps are those in the small cities and villages, and those in the large cities are in very poor shape. Three of the Camps inspected are suspended and practically dead, and have been so for some time."

A. G. HALL, *Inspector*.

The general average and classification of the Divisions not included in the foregoing are as follows : —

State.	General Average.	First-class.	Second-class.	Third-class.
Alabama and Tennessee .	33 per cent	2	6	1
Illinois	36 per cent	15	27	4
Kansas	48 per cent	31	10	0
New Hampshire	83 per cent	15	3	0
New Jersey	85 per cent	93	3	0
Ohio	No report			
South Dakota	34 per cent	6	4	0
Washington	77 per cent	17	2	0
West Virginia	28 per cent	0	4	1

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the uniform courtesy which I have met with, and to extend my thanks to Commander-in-Chief Darling, Adjutant-General Bolton and Quartermaster-General Loebenstein for many favors extended. Attached to this report will be found "Exhibit A and B," the first containing totals of the first twenty questions and the second showing the percentages.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

J. FRANK DURSTON,
Inspector-General Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

EXHIBIT "A."
Table Showing Totals for First Ten Questions.

Division.	1			2			3			4			5			6			7			8			9			10			
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.				
Ala. and Tenn.....	5	2	6	1	2	5	2	3	6	4	1	2	3	1	2	7	3	1	3	5	6	3	...	3	1	4	1	3			
Cal. and H.I.....	5	2	1	6	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	2	8	4	4	2	7	3	...	3	5	6	3	...	3	5	4				
Colorado.....	13	6	4	2	9	3	7	8	7	2	11	3	1	2	...	14	6	3	1	2	1	14	10	1	1	2	1				
Connecticut.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gulf.....	3	12	9	8	6	10	12	18	8	10	8	12	14	9	10	16	11	13	20	12	12	13	20	12	1	1	1				
Illinois.....	17	12	9	8	19	10	12	15	20	8	17	11	12	16	14	13	22	12	7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Indiana.....	25	9	8	4	7	8	10	23	19	10	10	13	25	14	11	6	13	13	24	12	3	24	12	1	1	1	1				
Iowa.....	15	7	12	6	8	12	11	7	15	7	14	8	10	12	7	16	5	7	16	5	9	15	14	9	2	2	2				
Kansas.....	5	5	1	2	3	1	3	1	2	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	6	4	7	7	4	7	7	4	7	4	7				
Kentucky.....	5	5	1	2	2	7	3	15	7	16	8	12	5	18	11	10	13	15	17	7	3	22	7	8	3	3	3				
Maine.....	21	4	11	10	9	7	13	1	3	8	4	2	6	12	2	3	6	14	17	4	5	7	5	9	2	2	2				
Maryland.....	6	6	5	3	3	5	13	1	3	1	5	6	12	2	3	3	3	2	8	7	4	3	4	1	1	1	1				
Massachusetts.....	89	15	11	19	68	21	11	34	15	12	21	36	44	22	26	60	25	28	58	47	17	59	18	43	110	13	8				
Michigan.....	20	6	8	14	6	2	11	29	15	13	19	13	2	10	23	21	2	11	22	12	9	32	4	12	39	7	1				
Minnesota.....	7	6	4	8	3	5	14	6	4	2	4	15	1	9	2	7	3	2	8	10	2	10	5	1	5	1	2				
Missouri.....	11	7	9	4	7	5	9	13	9	11	5	11	9	6	3	8	12	9	14	10	8	6	9	8	11	27	6	1			
Nebraska.....	5	4	7	4	3	10	5	2	9	3	4	5	7	4	6	7	4	6	5	6	6	3	9	2	7	16	2	2			
New Hampshire.....	13	2	1	2	8	2	5	3	11	2	3	2	3	1	5	11	1	5	12	4	1	1	7	1	3	7	16	2			
New Jersey.....	12	6	6	1	5	5	11	4	10	7	5	3	9	6	6	4	4	7	2	15	7	3	15	2	7	20	4	1			
New York.....	53	19	17	8	31	21	22	35	21	23	17	40	18	31	18	38	17	26	58	33	12	57	9	10	88	9	5	90	5		
Ohio.....	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	9	2	1	2	2	4	2	1	2	1			
Oregon.....	40	32	25	17	23	27	30	29	35	22	33	24	32	30	24	37	32	29	68	30	13	69	15	8	103	9	1	101	10		
Pennsylvania.....	3	2	8	1	1	1	8	4	2	2	9	3	2	3	8	1	4	1	7	1	5	6	3	3	9	2	2	8	2		
Rhode Island.....	4	3	3	...	1	4	3	...	3	3	4	...	1	3	1	3	3	4	5	3	2	2	3	3	7	2	1	7	2		
South Dakota.....	16	12	6	4	7	3	8	12	5	6	13	14	7	10	15	10	8	10	11	14	5	14	3	2	19	2	7	25	1		
Vermont.....	8	3	8	...	4	8	22	7	4	9	2	7	1	5	5	9	3	5	8	7	4	8	4	6	1	14	4	1	16	1	
Washington.....	2	1	1	...	3	7	2	...	3	1	2	1	...	3	1	1	1	1	3	12	7	4	5	4	4	2	
West Virginia.....	13	7	3	4	6	4	6	11	9	4	7	7	6	2	6	10	4	10	10	12	5	12	7	4	18	20	4	2	
Wisconsin.....	13	7	3	4	6	4	6	11	9	4	7	7	6	2	6	10	4	10	10	12	5	12	7	4	18	20	4	2	
Totals.....	434	197	190	147	253	179	223	292	323	163	267	314	297	163	246	252	342	194	436	308	163	438	157	117	745	142	60	765	81	50	74

EXHIBIT "A."—Continued.
Table Showing Totals of Second Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	11			12			13			14			15			16			17			18			19			20		
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Good.	Fair.	Poor.				
Ala. and Tenn.	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	1	5	3	1	2	8	9				
Cal. and H.I.	2	1	9	2	1	2	2	1	4	12	2	1	10	5	9	1	5	5	9	1	5	3	1	2	8	10				
Colorado	3	1	3	2	3	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	2	1	6	1	1	1	7	1	1	5	1	1	1	10				
Connecticut	19	4	2	18	4	3	1	22	1	3	1	3	19	2	25	1	1	1	24	1	1	24	1	23	1	25				
Gulf	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	24	1	4	1	4	4	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	4				
Illinois	16	4	9	12	10	9	15	30	2	24	1	19	9	38	3	5	40	4	4	2	3	6	1	3	36	4				
Indiana	18	10	3	15	15	8	8	41	5	26	2	17	19	3	43	3	46	6	3	1	43	1	2	1	43	3				
Iowa	5	7	13	37	5	16	11	30	38	7	41	6	14	34	4	12	52	6	3	1	49	7	1	4	49	7				
Kansas	8	12	6	15	8	10	9	25	6	22	3	10	12	15	46	2	37	3	1	1	37	3	1	1	41	4				
Kentucky	6	2	3	4	5	4	1	5	2	9	2	5	2	4	8	3	13	1	1	1	10	2	1	1	11	1				
Maine	24	2	6	14	18	6	11	36	8	2	19	20	6	10	46	1	44	2	1	1	44	1	1	1	22	1				
Maryland	7	4	2	11	4	4	12	12	6	1	15	6	4	2	12	1	19	1	4	1	16	1	1	1	17	4				
Massachusetts	123	5	4	2	112	10	9	3	128	5	1	115	12	3	183	1	132	2	2	1	130	2	2	1	130	2				
Michigan	35	3	1	9	14	11	2	33	6	5	4	17	39	1	32	2	46	1	1	1	44	1	4	4	44	1				
Minnesota	10	1	1	14	5	3	2	15	8	1	15	8	2	14	23	1	18	5	1	1	23	1	1	2	21	1				
Missouri	11	8	3	12	11	11	1	11	8	1	9	10	8	2	30	1	31	3	3	1	30	1	3	4	30	1				
Nebraska	2	4	6	8	4	1	10	5	14	1	3	17	4	12	18	1	19	1	1	1	17	1	1	1	20	1				
New Hampshire	12	3	2	1	12	3	2	1	18	2	3	11	4	3	18	1	18	1	1	1	18	1	1	1	18	1				
New Jersey	22	1	1	1	16	7	1	1	25	1	4	25	1	1	25	1	25	1	25	1	25	1	25	1	25	1				
New York	58	11	8	21	56	13	13	89	8	5	1	53	10	15	102	1	103	1	1	1	99	1	1	1	103	1				
Ohio	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1				
Oregon	79	14	14	7	79	18	10	7	102	7	4	92	81	17	12	110	1	110	1	2	111	1	2	1	111	1				
Pennsylvania	13	1	1	1	8	5	1	12	1	1	1	13	2	2	14	1	13	1	1	1	11	2	1	1	14	1				
Rhode Island	2	4	3	1	3	2	3	2	8	1	1	3	2	3	9	1	8	2	2	1	7	2	1	1	3	1				
South Dakota	24	3	11	13	5	3	17	29	4	3	2	23	16	6	4	38	1	29	2	2	32	3	8	3	30	1				
Vermont	8	4	5	2	7	7	3	14	3	2	1	6	3	5	5	19	1	19	1	1	17	1	1	1	18	1				
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	5	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5	1				
West Virginia	7	5	4	11	9	6	6	19	8	1	1	7	6	4	13	25	1	24	3	3	21	2	3	3	26	1				
Wisconsin	516	115	101	231	439	176	132	735	131	60	37	497	472	122	116	891	14	908	891	16	19	1	1	1	826	32				
Totals	516	115	101	231	439	176	132	735	131	60	37	497	472	122	116	891	14	908	891	16	19	1	1	1	826	32				

EXHIBIT "B."
Table Showing Percentages of First Ten Questions.

Division.	1			2			3			4			5			6			7			8			9			10		
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.
Ala. and Tenn.	28	11	61	5	11	84	11	11	78	22	43	35	17	5	78	11	5	84	17	14	69	28	22	50	17	11	72	33	11	50
Cal. and H.I.	36	14	50	43	7	43	43	7	50	43	7	50	42	21	37	50	21	29	43	28	28	43	21	29	43	7	22	50	28	4
Colorado	43	28	29	57	14	29	57	14	29	57	14	29	42	21	37	43	21	29	43	28	28	43	21	29	43	7	14	71	28	4
Connecticut	38	22	40	41	11	48	41	11	48	41	11	48	33	30	37	33	11	11	33	37	4	33	11	44	33	11	22	55	22	4
Gulf	33	11	56	33	11	56	33	11	56	33	11	56	33	11	56	33	11	11	33	33	11	33	11	44	33	11	22	55	22	4
Illinois	20	14	66	7	12	81	21	9	70	9	12	81	11	14	75	11	14	75	11	14	75	11	14	75	11	14	75	11	14	75
Indiana	37	13	50	25	15	60	16	16	67	25	15	60	16	16	67	25	15	60	16	16	67	25	15	60	16	16	67	25	15	60
Iowa	31	26	43	13	16	71	16	16	67	13	16	71	16	16	67	13	16	71	16	16	67	13	16	71	16	16	67	13	16	71
Kansas	25	12	63	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72	14	14	72
Kentucky	38	8	54	15	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31	8	54	31
Maine	42	8	50	18	14	68	30	14	86	24	10	66	24	10	66	24	10	66	24	10	66	24	10	66	24	10	66	24	10	66
Maryland	25	25	50	13	13	74	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87	4	13	87
Massachusetts	65	11	24	50	16	34	55	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35	48	9	35
Michigan	34	10	56	10	3	87	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54
Minnesota	14	12	74	6	10	84	3	22	75	3	20	77	5	20	75	3	22	75	3	20	77	5	20	75	3	22	75	3	20	77
Missouri	27	17	56	17	12	71	22	8	70	27	12	83	2	18	80	2	18	80	2	18	80	2	18	80	2	18	80	2	18	80
Nebraska	14	11	75	8	28	64	26	8	88	11	14	75	13	11	76	20	11	76	20	11	76	20	11	76	20	11	76	20	11	76
New Hampshire	69	11	20	42	1	57	58	11	31	42	1	57	58	11	31	42	1	57	58	11	31	42	1	57	58	11	31	42	1	57
New Jersey	46	23	31	19	19	62	38	27	35	19	11	70	34	23	43	27	27	46	34	27	37	57	8	37	77	15	3	77	4	8
New York	51	18	31	30	20	50	34	20	46	38	17	45	30	17	53	36	16	48	55	9	10	55	9	10	55	9	10	55	9	10
Ohio	17	33	50	17	17	66	33	50	17	17	66	33	50	17	17	66	33	50	17	17	66	33	50	17	17	66	33	50	17	17
Oregon	28	22	50	20	19	61	20	13	67	22	18	60	33	17	50	17	33	50	17	33	50	17	33	50	17	33	50	17	33	50
Pennsylvania	22	14	64	7	7	86	14	7	79	22	18	60	22	21	57	22	20	58	48	21	9	48	21	9	48	21	9	48	21	9
Rhode Island	39	13	48	4	17	79	13	17	69	13	17	69	13	17	69	13	17	69	21	13	8	34	7	5	46	61	17	10	61	2
South Dakota	37	30	33	10	10	80	17	15	68	15	33	52	24	19	57	24	19	57	38	33	19	38	33	19	38	33	19	38	33	19
Vermont	38	14	48	33	14	53	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48	43	9	48
Washington	18	14	68	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68
West Virginia	42	23	35	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68
Wisconsin	42	23	35	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68	27	9	64	19	13	68

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Next in the order is the report of the Judge Advocate-General.

Judge Advocate-General Edward K. Gould of Maine, submitted and read the following report: —

TO CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief*.

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report as Judge Advocate-General for the present term.

Upon assuming the duties of this office my attention was early called to the urgent demand for a codification of the decisions of the Commanders-in-Chief and the opinions of the Judge Advocates-General. Scattered as they are through many volumes of proceedings, some of which are out of print and difficult of access to Camp officers, it was almost impossible to find precedents to guide in forming correct conclusions in regard to the innumerable questions that constantly arise in the administration of the affairs of the Order.

SONS OF VETERANS' DIGEST.

The condition of the finances had not permitted the publication of the Blue Book, and to provide a substitute that would be compact and within the means of the Order, and at the same time meet this urgent demand for a book of decisions, became the first duty of this Department. During seven years' continuous service as Judge-Advocate of the Maine Division, I had from time to time annotated and kept up in the form of an index-digest the official decisions of the Commander-in-Chief, as they appeared in the published proceedings.

I found this arrangement most convenient for ready reference, and in its completed state it has the value of being the result of years of experience and constant use. By the orderly and logical subdivision of topics such as is used in this digest, it is easy to find any and all decisions bearing upon a particular subject.

During the latter part of October I submitted a proposition to the Commander-in-Chief to take upon myself the task of preparing a digest of decisions for the use of the Order. The proposal at once met with favor at the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, who issued the necessary authority for the preparation of the work in Special Order No. 2.

I entered upon my task with zeal, and after two months of labor produced the digest now in use. In its preparation the greatest care was taken to eliminate obsolete and overruled decisions, so that those embodied in the work can be relied upon as authority. While in the arrangement of the topics the work follows the form and combines all the good qualities of an index-digest, it is something more than that, inasmuch as the necessity of referring to the original decision is obviated by the full and complete statement in the digest of each point decided.

I have endeavored, however, not to lose sight of the fact that the value of a digest depends upon the succinct and accurate statement of the exact point decided in each case. As one of the results of this purpose there has been compressed into seventy-two pages an amount

of matter which, if printed in full, would, I believe, cover between three hundred and four hundred pages of the same size and style of type as that in the digest.

In the preparation of the work I was very materially aided by the Commander-in-Chief and Quartermaster General Loebenstein. From the first the Commander-in-Chief manifested the greatest interest in the work, and the proof sheets were sent him and the Quartermaster-General as fast as received from the printer. These he critically examined and carefully revised, his rare legal training and experience as compiler of the early laws of Massachusetts making his assistance invaluable. The suggestions of the Quartermaster-General were always timely and I considered myself fortunate in having the aid of an officer of such ability and experience in the affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief.

At the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief, Decisions I. to IX. and Opinions I. to VII. of the present Commander-in-Chief and Judge Advocate-General were included in the digest as an appendix.

The book was printed under my direct supervision, and such a number of copies as were needed for the immediate use of the Order, were turned over in bulk to the Quartermaster-General, who in turn supplied the Divisions on requisition. That the work is proving of value to the Order I have abundant evidence, and that it will bear the test of time and constant use I have no reason to doubt.

OFFICIAL OPINIONS.

The Commander-in-Chief has required of me twenty-four opinions upon various subjects, all of which have been submitted to and approved by him and are herewith subjoined. Each opinion has been prepared with a syllabus and digest of its contents, which I believe will meet with such favor with the Order that opinions hereafter drawn will conform to the practice established this present term.

COURTS-MARTIAL.

But three cases of courts-martial have been passed upon since my appointment, and of this number one was approved and two disapproved. The many errors and irregularities in the records of courts-martial are due to the carelessness of Judge Advocates in preparing them and could readily be avoided by a little care.

While technicalities should never be permitted to interfere with the speedy conviction and punishment of offenders against our laws, there are certain rules that must be observed in order to insure the impartial administration of justice. A departure from any one of them is fatal to any case. In at least two respects the faulty condition of the blanks used in courts-martial is responsible for errors, and the first of these that comes to my attention is the blank order convening the court and appointing its members. In this, blank spaces for the detailing of eight brothers are provided, when but five are authorized by the General Rules and Regulations, and the appointing of a larger number is fatal to the case.

One other serious defect in the blanks for courts-martial is the ambiguity in the instructions as to the method of procedure when the

accused is absent. To this cause may be assigned the very common and inconsistent error of reporting the accused absent and also that he was arraigned and pleaded not guilty. I am of the opinion that the blanks for courts-martial should be subjected to a thorough revision that the irregularities and inconsistencies in the record due to faulty construction may be eliminated.

I have been called upon in several instances to render informal opinions to the Commander-in-Chief, and have done so in each case. Questions have also come to me through irregular channels, and in every instance I have replied, giving instructions as to the proper course to pursue, or to save delay and for the general good of the Order, an informal opinion has been forwarded.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

It has been my pleasant duty, as a member of the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, to be present at the reception tendered him by Shepley Camp No. 4, of Portland, Me., and to also be in attendance upon him during his official visits to the Encampments of the Massachusetts Division and of the Ladies' Aid Societies, at Boston, February 22. Together with Adjutant-General Bolton, I attended the annual Encampment of the Maine Division at Pittsfield, June 8 and 9, the Commander-in-Chief being absent at the time with his regiment in the field, rendering honorable service to his country in the conflict with Spain.

ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

I believe it to be proper to call attention to the importance of so framing the terms of the eligibility clause, as to remove all doubt that it embraces every person whose father is eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. There should also be such a clear and explicit limitation of the term, "The Civil War of 1861-1865," that it would be possible to give it but one construction. As it now reads, legal minds can widely differ in regard to just the exact point of time embraced in the term.

DUES OF VOLUNTEERS.

Legislation should also be passed authorizing Camps to remit the dues of members serving in the army and navy of the United States in time of war, and relieving Camps from *per capita* tax upon members whose dues are thus remitted.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report I must express my thanks to the Commander-in-Chief for his courtesy and consideration at all times, and for the very pleasant relations we have sustained as Commander and subordinate. To Adjutant-General Bolton and Quartermaster-General Loebenstein I am under obligations for many favors, and I beg that they will accept these assurances of my highest regard.

Fraternally submitted,

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion I.—(Decision I., Commander-in-Chief).

CHARTER: Minimum number of members in good standing necessary to hold.

QUORUM: When the return of a Camp shows a less number than a, in good standing, the Division Commander should demand the surrender of its charter.

Commander Charles L. Pierce of the Division of California asks relative to the number of members in good standing necessary to hold the charter of a Camp.

If a Camp has a sufficient number of members in good standing to make a quorum, and complies fully with the law in regard to making returns and paying *per capita* tax to the Division, its charter cannot be taken from it. But should the returns of a Camp show less than a quorum of members in good standing, then I conceive it to be the duty of the Division Commander to demand the surrender of its charter, and all books, papers and property in its possession belonging to the Order.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Sept. 23, 1897.

Opinion II.—(Decision II., Commander-in-Chief.)

COURTS-MARTIAL — PAST CAPTAIN — Original jurisdiction not in Commander-in-Chief to convene court for trial of.

PAST OFFICERS — Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past Grand Division Commanders are the only, over which the Commander-in-Chief has original courts-martial jurisdiction.

INDECENT AND UNBECOMING WORDS, although not actionable in themselves, when addressed to a veteran of the late war, make the user subject to courts-martial.

SENTENCE — One year's suspension from membership not excessive, for using indecent and unbecoming words to a veteran.

VETERANS — Rule of conduct that should govern members in their relations to.

In the matter of the courts-martial of Past Captain Charles F. Perkins of Camp No. 8, Division of Massachusetts.

This case comes up on appeal by the accused from the decision of the Commander of the Massachusetts Division, modifying the sentence of the court from two years' suspension from membership to one year.

The record of the proceedings and accompanying papers are respectfully returned with the following memorandum:—

The chief contention of the accused is that a courts-martial for the trial of a Past Captain can only be ordered by the Commander-in-Chief. Chapter V., Article VI, Section 3 of the Rules and Regulations, reads in part: "Courts-martial may be ordered by the Captains of Camps, Commanders of Divisions, or by the Commander-in-Chief, for the trial of alleged offenders in their respective jurisdictions. The Commander-in-Chief shall, whenever charges are preferred against any past officer, order a Court of Inquiry or courts-martial, as may be deemed advisable," etc. When the various parts of this section are considered together, it is evident that the Commander-in-Chief has control for courts-martial purposes over such officers, and past officers only, as are within his jurisdiction. This would embrace the Past Commanders-in-Chief and the Past Grand Division Commanders. A fair and liberal construction of this section cannot give him original courts-martial jurisdiction over the seven thousand or more Past Captains, scattered as they are over wide territory. To do this would be to cause grave injustice in many cases. It needs but a cursory comparison of this section as it now exists, and as it existed prior to its complete revision by the Commandery-in-Chief, to note the intent to curtail and limit the courts-martial jurisdiction of the Commander-in-Chief, and to enlarge that of the Camp Captain and the Division Commander.

The language which the testimony shows the appellant used toward a Grand Army comrade is grossly indecent, and unbecoming a member of our

Order, whose conduct toward the veterans of the late war should at all times be deferential and respectful. The words themselves would not be actionable in a court of law, nor does it appear in evidence that they were used in a public manner, or that any injury to the party addressed followed their use. But this case is peculiar, and the ordinary rules governing such matters cannot be applied to it. A soldier in the service addressing such language to an officer under the same circumstances would be summarily punished. The respect and deference paid by a private to an officer in the service, should be the rule of conduct governing members of our Order in their relations to the veterans of the Union. A member of our Order, when he takes upon himself the obligations of this organization, engages to assume toward old soldiers an attitude of reverence such as men whose memory it is our sworn duty to keep green, are entitled to have shown them. Any marked deviation from this rule is such an infraction of discipline as to call for punishment, and the case in issue is a flagrant violation of this rule. The sentence of the court, as modified by the Division Commander, is not excessive when compared with the nature of the offence. I am constrained, therefore, to recommend that the appeal be dismissed, that the record and proceedings of the court be declared regular; that the findings of court be approved, and that the decision of the Division Commander in modifying the sentence of the court to suspension from membership for one year be affirmed.

Rockland, Me., Sept. 25, 1897.

EDWARD K GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion III.— (Decision III., Commander-in-Chief.)

DISPENSATION—A Division Commander has no power to grant, to one Camp for the muster of a recruit of another Camp.

TRANSFER—A candidate who has only received the degrees of Friendship and Charity not entitled to a.

JURISDICTION—A Camp can surrender, over a recruit who has only received the degrees of Friendship and Charity, changes his residence and desires to take the degree of Loyalty in another Camp.

Capt. R. B. Howard of Camp 37, Division of Massachusetts, asks through the Commander of that Division for information on the following subject: One Lewis Cross paid the muster fees and received the first and second degrees in Camp 37 and then moved to Boston; now he wishes to know if he can take his third degree there, and then get a transfer from this Camp and join there. I fail to find any information in the C. R. & R., and thought perhaps we might get a dispensation to have the third degree conferred there.

The C. R. & R. is silent upon the question raised here, nor are there precedents to guide in forming an opinion. It would seem to be the intent of the law to place a candidate who has been accepted absolutely and solely within the jurisdiction of the Camp that accepted him, and that Camp alone would have the right to confer all the degrees upon him. But a Camp may surrender its jurisdiction over a candidate if it so elects, even after it has conferred two degrees upon him. The case under consideration cannot be reached by dispensation from the Division Commander, who has no power to grant one in such cases, nor can it be facilitated by the issue of a transfer card by the Captain of Camp 37, as transfer cards can only be granted to *members* of the Order, and it is already a matter of decision that a recruit is not a "member" until he has received three degrees, or, under the recently amended article governing this matter (Chapter V., Article XX.), as changed by the Indianapolis Encampment, until he receives the obligation of membership, etc., in the degree of Loyalty. The only course for Lewis Cross to pursue, if he cannot take the degree of Loyalty in Camp 37, and then receive his transfer card, is to make application for membership to a Boston Camp, accompanied by the written statement that he has on a certain date or dates taken in due form the degrees of Friendship and Charity in Camp 37, Massachusetts Division, but has not yet received the degree of Loyalty. The Camp to which he makes application should by vote ask Camp 37, to waive jurisdiction, and on receiving the request Camp 37, may on formal ballot surrender its jurisdiction over this can-

didate and certify its action under the hands of its Captain and First Sergeant and the seal of the Camp, to the Camp preferring the request. Then the candidate should be balloted upon, and if elected, may become a member of the Order by receiving the degree of Loyalty in the Camp to which his last application was made. It is enjoined upon Camp 37, and the Camp in which Lewis Cross receives the Loyalty degree, to extend at large upon their minutes all documents interchanged with reference to this matter, together with the action taken thereupon, in order that the record may be as complete as possible.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., Oct. 23, 1897.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion IV. — (Decision IV., Commander-in-Chief.)

COURTS-MARTIAL — A brother serving a sentence of suspension cannot be tried on another charge during the period of suspension.

There is in Camp No. 8, Division of Massachusetts, a case as follows: A brother who is under sentence of suspension, which will expire in June, 1898, has some property of the Camp which it is essential for the Camp to have, and immediately. He refuses to give the property to the Camp and we would like to know if the brother can be tried for this later offence while under sentence of former.

I answer no. See Opinion LXXVII., Blue Book, page 74. If all friendly measures have been exhausted in the endeavor to recover the property, perhaps legal proceedings could be resorted to in order to obtain possession.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., Nov. 2, 1897.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion V. — (Decision VII., Commander-in-Chief.)

SUSPENDED MEMBER — When he becomes so by operation of law.

DROPPED MEMBER — When he becomes so by operation of law.

SUSPENSION — Vote of Camp not necessary for.

In the matter of the appeal of Camp No. 47, Division of Missouri, from the decision of the Division Commander, holding that members are illegally suspended when no vote of the Camp is taken thereupon, and that brothers must be suspended before they can be dropped, I would say:

That it is my opinion that the decision of the Division Commander should be reversed. Decisions IX. and XXVI. of Commander-in-Chief Russell, upon which his action is based, passes upon legislation that was repealed at the Louisville Encampment, consequently they cannot now be accepted as precedents upon the subject of suspension of members. Under Article IV., Section 3, page 53, C, R. & R., as it now reads, a brother six months in arrears in the payment of his dues is a suspended member, and a brother one year in arrears in the payment of said dues is "dropped." The fact that a brother may not have been reported suspended or dropped in the quarterly reports, and his name does not appear as "suspended" or "dropped" upon the Camp records does not alter the case whatever. The law governing this matter is mandatory. It is not in the power of Camps or their officers to control the suspension or dropping of members. If a brother is six months in arrears in the payment of his dues he is suspended. If one year in arrears he is dropped. The very fact of his arrearage for these specified periods constitutes suspension and deposition from membership within the meaning of the law, and the neglect of Camp officers to report him suspended or dropped, and to make the entry upon the records of the Camp, does not affect the case. In the matter under consideration seven brothers were reported suspended. No vote of the Camp was necessary to suspend them. Six members were reported dropped although some of them had not been previously reported as suspended. They were legally dropped notwithstanding this neglect of duty on the part of the Camp officers. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the appeal should be sustained.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., Nov. 20, 1897.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion VI. — (Decision VIII., Commander-in-Chief.)

TRANSFER — Issued to a Division officer does not vacate the office under certain circumstances.

A member of a disbanded Camp receives a transfer card, as provided for in Section 4, Article III., C., R. & R. He at once becomes a charter member of a new Camp. When his former Camp disbanded he held the position of, say, Junior Vice-Commander. Can he, during the interim between the disbandment of the old and formation of the new, retain his position as Junior Vice-Commander, continuing as such until the end of the term?

Under the above statement of facts, where the Camp to which a Division officer belongs disbands, and he, being in good standing, is granted a transfer card and uses due diligence to keep in good standing in the Order by forthwith depositing it in another Camp, or by becoming a charter member of a new Camp. I am of opinion that the Division office held by him is not vacated.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Nov. 25, 1897.

Opinion VII. — (Decision IX., Commander-in-Chief.)

PAST CAPTAIN — A sitting Captain must serve to the end of his term to attain past rank.

Commander W. P. Feder of the Kansas Division, submits the case of O. M. Lippert, who was elected Captain of Smith Semple Camp of that Division in December, 1896, and served until the early part of the following December when his Camp surrendered its charter. He received a transfer, which acknowledges him as sitting Captain, and deposited it in Camp 223, of the same Division. Is he entitled to honors as Past Captain?

I am constrained to answer in the negative. To attain the rank of Past Captain and to earn the right to the Iron Cross, a sitting Captain must have served a full term, or having been elected to fill a vacancy, shall have served to the end of the term. Captain Lippert's term did not expire until the first stated meeting of his Camp in January, and the surrender of its charter in December prevented him from completing a full term in the chair. The inequality of the law relating to past rank is made painfully manifest in this case, but the power to remedy it does not lie in the Commander-in-Chief. His duty, and that of his legal adviser, ends when the law as it exists is interpreted according to its terms.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Jan. 5, 1898.

Opinion VIII.—(Decision X., Commander-in-Chief.)

COURTS-MARTIAL — When composed of seven members, proceedings fatally defective.

ADJOURNMENT — Without notice to the accused irregular.

DETAIL — Cannot be changed without notice to the accused.

In the matter of the courts-martial of Brother Adolph Derusha of Camp No. 25, Division of Wisconsin.

The proceedings are respectfully returned with the following memorandum:—

1. The courts-martial in this case consisted of seven members, two of whom were added after the regular detail had been made and without notice to the accused. A courts-martial should consist of just five members, and a change in the detail before trial cannot be made without notice to the accused.

2. It appears that the Court "adjourned from time to time to January 11, 1898," but notice of the adjournment was not given the accused and proof thereof incorporated in the record.

I am therefore of the opinion that the proceedings are fatally defective, and that the findings and sentence cannot be approved.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Feb. 5, 1898.

Opinion IX.—(Decision XII., Commander-in-Chief.)

INFAMOUS CRIME — Defined.

BURGLARY — An "infamous crime."

My opinion is requested on the following question: Is the crime of burglary committed by a youth of the age of fifteen years, for which he was sentenced and committed to the State Reform School, under a law that offenders under the age of sixteen years be committed to such Reform School instead of State Prison, an infamous crime within the meaning of Section 1, Article V., of C., R. & R. of the S. of V.?

A crime punishable by imprisonment in the State Prison or penitentiary, whether the accused is or is not sentenced to hard labor, is an infamous crime; and in determining this, the question is whether the crime is one for which the statute authorizes the courts to award an infamous punishment, and not whether the punishment actually imposed is an infamous one. Burglary is an infamous crime, and persons of whatever age convicted of it are not eligible to membership in our Order.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Feb. 18, 1898.

Opinion X.—(Decision XIII., Commander-in-Chief.)

TRANSFER — Member of a disbanded Camp entitled to, if in good standing, even if he has entered another Camp as a new member.

L. Lewy belonged to Logan Camp of the New Jersey Division and at the time of its suspension was a member in good standing, and when that Camp surrendered its charter and the majority of its members organized McClellan Camp No. 50, there were no transfer cards issued by the Division Commander. He has since applied to me for such transfer and claims that he should have been granted one by the Division Commander at the time of the surrender of the charter of Logan Camp. Meanwhile he has joined Woemer Camp No. 1, as a new member, but says if transfer is granted he will resign and join on such transfer. He makes this application so as to retain his rank of Past Captain. Will you kindly give me a decision as to the legality of my issuing this transfer?

If this man was in good standing at the time of the *dissolution* of Logan Camp, he was clearly entitled to a transfer card, and one may issue to him now, which if deposited in Camp No. 1, will entitle him to past honors.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Feb. 18, 1898.

Opinion XI. — (Decision XIV., Commander-in-Chief.)

BOND — A joint bond, or a bond from each member of the Camp Council, may be required in the discretion of the Camp.

"JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY"—Meaning of, as employed in Chapter V., Article VII., Section 2, C. R. & R.

"AND" and "OR"—Are convertible as the sense of a law may require.

My opinion is required on the following question submitted by Commander L. C. Couch of the Massachusetts Division:

Referring to Section 2, Article 7, Chapter 5 of the C., R. & R., I would request you to explain the following to me, namely: "members of the Camp Council holding the funds of their Camp shall be required jointly and severally to give bond." Does this mean that each member of the Camp Council shall give a bond, or that the three members jointly shall give one bond, or, that they shall give a joint bond and also an individual one?

The meaning of this section is obscure and it is difficult to determine the framer's intent. I am inclined to the opinion, however, that the well settled rule in the construction of statutes that the words "and" and "or" are convertible as the sense of a statute may require, should be applied to this case. so that "jointly and severally" shall read "jointly or severally." Then a Camp

could, if it desired, require all the members to join in one bond, or it could require each member of the Council to give a bond, as in its discretion seems for the best interests of the organization.

Rockland, Me., March 28, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XII. -- (Decision XV., Commander-in-Chief.)

MEMBERSHIP — When father enlists under assumed name, son eligible how.

Commander J. M. Diven of the New York Division asks whether a man, whose father enlisted and was lost sight of, or presumably deserted, but afterwards re-enlisted and was honorably discharged under an assumed name, was eligible to membership?

Yes; the applicant should sign his own name, give his father's correct name, and also his alias, with an explanation, and satisfactory evidence that the applicant is the son of the soldier referred to. See Decision XV., Commander-in-Chief Russell, page 46, Digest.

Rockland, Me., April 7, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XIII. — (Decision XVI., Commander-in-Chief.)

PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING — How the Division Encampment may legally fix same.

DIVISION COUNCIL — Can fix time and place of meeting only when no provision has been made for same.

DIVISION COMMANDER — May by vote be authorized to fix place or time of meeting.

My opinion is asked on the following matter submitted by Commander William W. Lapoint of the Vermont Division.

At the last Division Encampment of the Vermont Division, Sons of Veterans, held at Lyndonville in 1897, the question of place and date for the next Division Encampment was disposed of as follows: A motion was made that the place for the next Encampment be left to the next Division Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice Division Commanders. A brother raised the question as to the legality of such action when the C., R. & R. provided that in case the Encampment failed to act, the Division Council shall select place and date. The motion was not carried, although the "minutes" say it was. If the motion had been passed, would the three officers named in it had any power to select place or dates for the next Encampment? Is it not a matter that rests with the Division Council? Is it a subject that can be taken from the hands of one set of officers and given to another without a repeal of the Constitution? Would the placing of the matter in the hands of the Commander, Senior Vice-Commander and Junior Vice-Commander be such action by the Encampment as takes away the C., R. & R. provision that the Division Council shall select the place? Whether that motion was passed or not, would it give any other officer or officers of the Division power to take the place of the Division Council as provided in C., R. & R.? Please give me an immediate ruling on this point. Under the circumstances would there be any way for this Division to hold its annual Encampment this year, save by vote of the elective members of the Division Council?

This matter involves the construction of Section 2, Article III., page 24, C., R. & R. (Edition of 1894) which is as follows: "Section 2. At the said meeting provision may be made for the stated yearly meeting of the succeeding year, and a day (between the above named dates), place and hour designated. . . . In case of failure of the Encampment to make such provision, the Division Council is authorized to act." The practice has become universal in our Order for Division Encampments to authorize the Division Commander to fix the time of meeting of the succeeding Division Encampment, and to designate the place. While it might not be considered wise always to vest this power in the first three

Division officers, yet I can see no legal objection to its being done. Clearly the Division Encampment has under this section the power to make such provision for its annual meeting as in its wisdom the best interests of the Order demand. It may fix the place, day and hour by vote, or it may authorize the Division Commander to do so. It can, by vote, designate the place of meeting and leave with the Division Commander the naming of the day and hour. Only in case of failure of the Encampment to designate place, day or hour, or to direct the Division Commander to do so, is the Division Council authorized to act.

A copy of the printed proceedings of the Lyndonville Encampment has not been submitted to me, and I am unable to judge whether or not they have been approved, and become the legal record of that meeting. As there seems to be a question about the vote authorizing the fixing of the time and place of meeting, as it appears of record, I suggest that the first three officers decide upon time and place, and submit their decision to the Division Council for ratification.

Rockland, Me., April 7, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XIV. —(Decision XVII., Commander-in-Chief.)

MEMBERS SUSPENDED — By courts-martial liable for dues during period of suspension.

My opinion is asked on the following: —

The question has arisen as to whether a brother suspended by courts-martial is liable for his dues during the time he is so suspended. Will you kindly, at your early convenience, give me your opinion on the question?

Sect. 3, Article III., page 52, C., R. & R. (Edition of 1894), reads: "Sect. 3. Each Camp shall cause to be paid into the Camp fund by each and every member, such sums as dues as the Camp shall determine upon." A brother serving a sentence of suspension does not cease to be a member of the Order, but is merely precluded from participating in the affairs of the Order. Under the above section he is liable for dues during the entire period of his suspension.

Rockland, Me., April 16, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XV.—(Decision XVIII., Commander-in-Chief.)

COMMISSION — A Camp officer not legally such if not commissioned.

Is the Captain of a Camp really in command if he has not received his commission, and would he be entitled to the honors of a Past Captain under the same circumstances? My reason for asking is that this Division has amended its by-laws so as to fix a charge of twenty-five cents for each commission issued; the result is that not more than half of the Camp officers will pay the fee, but serve without any commission.

A Division Commander for legal cause may withhold the commission of a Camp officer, but if by negligence upon the part of a Division Commander a commission is not issued to a Camp officer, such officer would have his remedy and would not suffer by the laches of his superior. It has already been decided that a Division Encampment has the power to establish a fee for the commission of a Camp officer (see Digest, page 38), and that a Division Commander has power to withhold the commission until such fee is paid. I am of the opinion, however, that a Camp officer cannot legally be such without a commission. That is his authority for acting. It is notice to him and to the Order that he has been legally elected, duly installed and that all regulations and laws relating to his election and induction into office, have been complied with. If the Captain-elect of a Camp refuses or neglects to pay the fee for his commission, established by the Division Encampment, the Division Commander, after notice to the delinquent, should decline to recognize him as Camp Captain, and if he still refuses or neglects to pay, he becomes a subject for discipline.

Rockland, Me., April 16, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XVI.—(Decision XIX., Commander-in-Chief.)

DROPPED MEMBERS — Cannot be honorably discharged when.

My opinion is asked on the following matter submitted by Commander Couch of the Massachusetts Division.

A brother was dropped from the rolls of a Camp for non-payment of dues, but subsequently paid all arrearages in full, together with the muster fee, and wished to be again mustered in. He now finds that he is about to leave the city and is unable to be at any of the meetings of the Camp to be mustered, therefore he desires an honorable discharge, as he has paid all money due the Camp. Can the Camp Captain legally grant him one without his being remustered?

I must answer this question in the negative. I have no knowledge of any law of our Order that would authorize the issue of an honorable discharge by a Captain of a Camp to a brother who has been dropped, under the facts as stated above.

Rockland, Me., May 20, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XVII.—(Decision XX., Commander-in-Chief.)

VOLUNTEERS — PER CAPITA TAX — DUES — Cannot be remitted.

Division Commander Dillon of Missouri submits, and you refer, for an opinion, a resolve adopted by the Encampment of that Division exempting from per capita tax and recommending that Camps remit the dues of all members in good standing, now in the army or navy of the United States. I regret to be compelled to give an opinion declaring this resolution unconstitutional, but such it undoubtedly is. Chapter V., Article IV., Section 3, C., R. & R., prescribes the only conditions under which a Camp is authorized to remit the dues of any of its members. (See Opinion V. of Judge Advocate-General Russell, page 10, S. V. Digest.) Nor is power given Divisions to remit per capita tax (see Decision XXV., Commander-in-Chief Maccabe, page 59, S. V. Digest). To honor our brave soldier members in the manner sought by this resolve, recourse must be had to the supreme legislative body of the Order.

Rockland, Me., July 5, 1898.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XVIII. — (Decision XXI., Commander-in-Chief.)

CAPTAIN — Cannot remove permanently Camp records and property from chartered location of Camp.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE — Should be granted to Camp officers now in the army or navy by the Division Commander without formal application.

SUSPENDED MEMBERS — How reinstated when all the Camp officers are absent from the jurisdiction.

My opinion is asked on the following questions:—

Has the Captain the right to take the charter and other records and Camp property out of the State?

No.

Are the officers and members of a Camp composed of soldiers of the regular army now in Cuba, engaged in the war with Spain, absent without leave?

The Division Commander should grant a leave of absence to all officers absent under such circumstances, and local Camps should extend the same favor to members serving in the army or navy.

How can we get the records of a Camp composed of soldiers of the regular army, now at the front, with the Camp records in their possession, provided we are entitled to them?

The records should not be removed from the chartered location of the Camp. The Division Commander should demand the return of the records, designating some brother to receive them.

Is there any method by which the suspended members of this Camp, now residing in the city which is the chartered location of the Camp, can be reinstated?

It appears by the statement accompanying these questions that the Camp referred to was composed, with but a single exception, of soldiers of the regular army, and that but one member in good standing remains at the chartered location. Several suspended members desire to join him in keeping up the Camp. Under such circumstances the Division Commander can authorize this member to receive and receipt for the dues of the suspended members until a quorum is in good standing; then a meeting can be held, pro tem., appointments to the various offices made, and the active work of the Camp resumed. The person designated as Acting Captain can continue as such until the return of the Captain, or the expiration of the term, exercising all the powers and performing all the duties of a Camp Commander, as defined in the C., R. & R.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., July 5, 1898.

Opinion XIX.— (Decision XXII., Commander-in-Chief.)

OBLIGATION OF MEMBERSHIP—Is the obligation in the degree of Loyalty.

My opinion is requested on the following questions:—

How many of the obligations in the present Ritual must be administered to a recruit to legally muster him in accordance with the amendments to Chapter V., Article XX., Section 2, C., R. & R., adopted by the 16th Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief?

As amended the section referred to reads as follows: "Section 2. The full use of the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership, the closing instruction by the captain in the degree of Loyalty, in presenting the insignia of the Order, and the demonstration of the secret work shall never be omitted." Under this section I would hold that but one obligation need be taken by a recruit to legally muster him, and that one is the obligation of membership—or to be more definite, the obligation in the degree of Loyalty.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., July 5, 1898.

Opinion XX.— (Decision XXIII., Commander-in-Chief.)

PAST CAPTAIN—takes precedence in Camp he joins by transfer from date of his admission.

My opinion is asked on the following question: A Past Captain whose commission is dated in 1891 deposits his transfer in a Camp chartered in 1895. Does he rank as a Past Captain in the latter Camp from the date he attained to past honors, or from the date of his admission into said Camp by transfer?

I am of the opinion that he takes precedence in said Camp as a Past Captain from the date of his admission on transfer. This would be the date of his membership in the latter Camp, and it seems equitable that he take precedence as a Past Captain from the time he becomes a member of it, rather than from the time he acquired past honors in another Camp.

EDWARD K. GOULD,
Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., July 12, 1898.

Opinion XXI.— (Decision XXIV., Commander-in-Chief.)

DIVISION ENCAMPMENT—Printed Proceedings substituted for written record.

Commander J. W. S. Dillon of the Missouri Division requests and you ask an opinion on the following resolution adopted by the recent Encampment of the Missouri Division: That a printed copy of the Division proceedings be kept on file at Division Headquarters, same to be bound every four years into a volume, instead of recopying same in the record book.

I am of the opinion that a Division Encampment has the power to pass such a resolution as the above, but hope the practice thus established in this

Division will not become universal. Each printed copy of the proceedings of the Division Encampments so retained for filing and binding, should bear the written certificate of the Adjutant, or other officer preparing them for publication, under the seal of the Division, that it is a true and correct record.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., July 23, 1898.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XXII. — (Decision XXV., Commander-in-Chief.)

"PERSONAL STAFF." — Division Chaplain and Surgeon are on the personal staff of Division Commander.

INSIGNIA OF RANK. — Division Surgeon and Chaplain wear the insignia designated for the personal staff of the Division Commander.

My opinion is asked on the following question: —

Article XIV., Section 1, Page 69, General Rules and Regulations prescribes that the insignia of rank for members of the Personal Staff of Division Commander is a miniature rank strap with one bar; am I to understand that is the insignia intended for the Division Surgeon and Chaplain?

As the Division Surgeon and Chaplain are members of the personal staff of the Division Commander, and as no special provision is made for their insignia in the General Rules and Regulations, I am of the opinion that they would be entitled to wear the insignia provided for the personal staff of the Division Commander, i.e., the miniature rank strap with one bar.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., Aug. 15, 1898.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XXIII. — (Decision XXVI., Commander-in-Chief.)

PAST CAPTAIN — Rejoining his old Camp from another on transfer, takes precedence as a Past Captain from the date of his acceptance on transfer.

I am required to give an opinion on the following: —

A Past Captain whose commission is dated 1894, transferred from the Camp of which he was formerly Captain and deposited his transfer in a Camp in the Oregon Division. Now in 1898 he returns to his former Camp in this Division. Does he take precedence in same Camp as if he had continued his membership there, and rank as a Past Captain from the date he attained his past honors?

The question of precedence of a Past Captain in the Camp he joins on transfer is passed upon in Opinion XX. of Judge Advocate-General Gould. This case differs from the one stated in that opinion in that the Past Captain after taking out a transfer from the Camp in which he acquired his past honors, and depositing it in another, of which he continued a member for some years, again takes out a transfer and rejoins his old Camp. I am inclined to the opinion that the principle laid down in Opinion XX holds good in this case. A Past Captain who takes out a transfer and becomes a member of another Camp loses the right to take precedence as a Past Captain from the date he attained his past honors, even though he may rejoin on transfer from another Camp the Camp in which he acquired the rank of Past Captain. I can conceive of but one exception to this rule, and that cannot be brought into this case under the above statement of facts.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Rockland, Me., Aug. 15, 1898.

Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion XXIV. — (Decision XXVII., Commander-in-Chief.)

COURTS-MARTIAL — NOTICE TO ACCUSED — dated and served March 21, 1898, summoning accused to appear on the 19th day of the preceding February is irregular.

MEMBERSHIP OF COURT — Should consist of five; no more, no less.

ADJOURNMENT — If absent from trial, accused must have notice of adjournment.

RECORD OF COURT — Is irregular that states that accused was absent, yet he was arraigned and pleaded not guilty.

BURGLARY — Courts-martial has no jurisdiction to try a person for crime of burglary. It can pass on the fact that he has been convicted and sentenced for that crime by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SPECIFICATION — To make out a *prima facie* case of burglary the specification should set out the court record of his trial and conviction.

DOCUMENTS — In the record of a court must be marked as exhibits.

PUBLIC RECORDS — How proved before courts-martial.

COURTS-MARTIAL proceedings in the case of William E. Teetor of William Meade Camp, No. 46, Division of Ohio, are herewith returned.

The following irregularities appear upon the face thereof :—

1. The copy of the notice to the accused in the record is dated March 21, 1898, and cites the accused to appear before a courts-martial ordered by the "Ohio Division" to be held for his trial the "19th day of February" preceding the date of the summons. This notice was served by mail March 21, 1898.

2. The court consists of seven members: The C, R. & R. limits the number of members to five and no more.

3. The court met April 5, 1898, pursuant to the order convening it. Whereupon it adjourned to June 18, 1898, and at that time found the accused guilty, and passed sentence upon him although it does not appear by the record that notice of the adjournment was sent the accused.

4. The record states that the accused was not present at the trial, nor was he represented by counsel, yet according to the record he was arraigned and pleaded "not guilty."

5. The charge is: "The commission of a scandalous crime against the laws of the land," and the specification to the charge sets forth that the said brother did break into and enter the dwelling-house of a certain person named therein at a certain specified time and place, and with the aid of an accomplice, stole certain articles which are named and the value given. This specification is defective in that it sets out facts that constitute a crime over which courts-martial of our Order have no jurisdiction, and to assume it would be to usurp the functions of the criminal courts. It was evidently intended to make out a *prima facie* case against the accused, but the specification fails to set it forth in that it does not allege that the accused was convicted of the crime of burglary by a court of competent jurisdiction, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the State penitentiary.

6. The only evidence that appears in the record is the statement that "The indictment rendered by the grand jury of Hamilton Co., State of Ohio, against Bro. Wm A Teetor was then read." Among the papers submitted is a document purporting to be a copy of an indictment found against one William A. Teetor, bearing as endorsements what purports to be certain docket entries in the case. It is not authenticated by the signature and seal of the clerk having the custody of the original, nor by the testimony of any witness who may have compared it with the court records. There is also a letter submitted purporting to come from the prosecuting attorney of Hamilton County, Ohio, which is not identified, and which would not be competent evidence in a case like this if it were. There are three ways by which a public record can be proved before a courts-martial: First, by the production of the record itself. Second, by a copy duly certified by the proper officer. Third, by an examined copy sworn or affirmed to by an unofficial witness who made the examination. Because lacking in one of these essentials, the so-called indictment would not be competent evidence were it properly made a part of the record of the court. Furthermore there is no evidence before the court that identifies the accused as the person charged with the crime of burglary in this document purporting to be an indictment. For these reasons the evidence is not sufficient to make out a *prima facie* case against the accused.

7. On the specification to the charge the accused is found guilty, but a finding is not recorded on the charge. The accused is then sentenced to be dishonorably discharged and dismissed from the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. Some of the irregularities in this record could perhaps be cured by reconvening

the court; others cannot be reached in this manner, and are fatal to the case, and I would therefore recommend that the proceedings, findings and sentence be disapproved.

As this court was improperly constituted in that it consisted of more than five members, and all its proceedings being null and void *ab initio*, the accused may now be brought before a proper court for trial. As it may be inferred from the record that the accused was guilty of the crime charged against him, I recommend that this be done.

EDWARD K. GOULD,

Judge Advocate-General.

Rockland, Me., Aug. 15, 1898.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objections the report will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports. Next in order is the report of the Surgeon-General.

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

Surgeon-General Dan S. Gardner of Ohio, submitted and read the following report: —

TO CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief, and the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.*

Brothers: For the second time it has been my honor to supervise the work of this department and I come to you at its conclusion with the same result — a year of earnest labor rewarded by inaction upon the part of many Division officials, gross incompetency with some, a condition bordering upon the discourteous in others, and with some again a disregard for the authority of the department and seemingly no fear of the penalties of the Commandery-in-Chief.

However, it is a great pleasure to know, as a compensating feature, that those Divisions which constitute the numerical bulk of the Order — who are the indirect financial strength of this Commandery — are not only well officered but, in addition to being prompt with their returns, present reports which are complete in statistical accuracy, and, thereby, useful for whatever purpose the Commandery-in-Chief may need them.

The statistical report is as follows: —

Number of members mustered (including charter members)	61,982
Number of members in good standing	25,420
Number of members mustered since last report	4,984
Number in State Militia	975
Number in U.S. Army	133
Number in U.S. Navy	18
Number of G A R members	962
Total number of drilled men	9,051
Number of members able to bear arms	23,330
Number of members over 45 years of age	1,070
Age of oldest member (Mass.)	83
Average age of all members	27½
Number of widowers	376
Number married members	11,776
Number of unmarried members	13,885
Number of deaths within one year	126
Number of cases of sickness during year	1,099
Number of injuries during year	291
Total number weeks disability (from sickness)	3,775

Total number weeks disability (from injury)	896
Number Camps paying funeral benefits	102
Average amount	\$90.43
Number Camps paying sick benefits	204
Average amount	\$3.05
Number of Camps engaging in regular drill	256
Number members foreign born	147
Number of clergymen	122
Number of physicians	190
Number of dentists	69
Number of attorneys	403
Number of teachers	338
Number of students	767
Number of artists and draughtsmen	170
Number of musicians	538
Number of merchants	1,591
Number of salesmen	1,338
Number of clerks and bookkeepers	2,599
Number of electricians	206
Number of telegraph operators	150
Number of mechanics	3,487
Number of engineers	462
Number of R.R. conductors	109
Number of printers	510
Number of sailors	69
Number of farmers	3,659
Number of miners	132
Number of skilled laborers	1,798
Number of laborers	3,926
Miscellaneous	1,665
Number of Camps in Divisions	1,439
Number of Camps reporting	895
Number of Divisions	29
Number Divisions reporting	23

It requires but a superficial analysis of the above to note its inaccuracies, which is in large part due to the fact that it contains but the reports from twenty-three Divisions, out of twenty-nine reported to be in good standing. At the time of making this report the following Divisions were in arrears to this Department: Colorado, Gulf, Indiana, Oregon, West Virginia and Wisconsin. This should not be a source for censure upon this department, for the Surgeon-General exerted every known means by which to secure reports and it is interesting to note that only a small per cent of those who did not promptly send in their returns, paid the slightest attention to numerous letters upon the subject.

In this connection I feel it is the intention of the Commandery-in-Chief that the reports to its several departments shall be of statistical value. To what purpose is not clear, but the fact still remains that it desires them made. To accomplish this wholly it will be necessary that we stipulate our wishes and attach to them certain penalties, for I understand it to be a general precept that laws are intended for those who break them and that a law without a penalty is without force. I might add in propriety that a penalty not executed and enforced is to make the law ridiculous.

A time limit should be agreed upon when the reports should be in the hands of the several departments, and I feel that a common date

would suffice for all departments as it would lead to less confusion among Camp and Division officers.

After such a date the report should be invalidated and the Division debarred from the deliberations of this body.

The necessity for having delinquent reports at an earlier time than the opening day of the Encampment becomes obvious when we understand that the consolidated reports from the several Commandery departments need to be received by the Adjutant-General at least thirty days before the Commandery convenes.

At least thirty days should be allowed the various staff officers in which to prepare reports, which should make July 1 of each year as the last day when reports to these departments should be accepted from Division officers.

The adoption and enforcement of a measure of this kind would have a two-fold effect. The first would be to stop Division Commanders or Surgeons who are delinquent with these reports, coming to a meeting of the Commandery with it in his pocket, or failing to come, the Commandery-in-Chief is entirely deprived of the report.

The second will insure the insertion of the report in the consolidated returns, a thing entirely impossible when it is not presented until the meeting of the Encampment, thereby making statistics of greater accuracy and value.

In leaving the subject I beg to present as my one recommendation the following resolution: —

Be it resolved, That the reports to the departments of the Inspector-General, Surgeon-General, and Chaplain-in-Chief, shall be made not later than July 1, of each year. The officers of these departments are hereby forbidden to accept reports after this date and all Divisions failing to report in accordance with this resolution shall be debarred from representation at the following meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief.

I have had no occasion to alter the conclusion arrived at two years ago and mentioned in my previous report, viz.: added benefits both financial and numerical would be derived from an insurance department, and by returning to the military order we would secure the discipline so necessary to effective work. I have no disposition to intrude these suggestions upon the Commandery, nor to keep repeating them, yet I know that the conclusions of every officer are the results of careful observation in his department and their deductions should be given a corresponding value.

As heretofore too much cannot be said in commendation of the reports from the Divisions of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota and Alabama and Tennessee.

It will be noted from the consolidated report that Massachusetts leads in point of oldest member, the age being 83 years, while New Hampshire holds first in point of average age, $29\frac{1}{4}$ years.

The average age for all members in the Order is $27\frac{3}{4}$ years, an increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ year over the report of two years ago.

It is an interesting fact at this time to observe that of the 25,420 reported in good standing, 23,330 are able to bear arms. This should

be a source of satisfaction to the Order for I am informed through the report of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army that the constant non-effective list numbers 34.49 per thousand men, while that of our organization has but 23.14. From the same source I learn that non-efficiency from sickness amounts to 6.69, as against our 4.7 per thousand men.

It is to be regretted that but 256 Camps continue in regular drill as against 332 in 1897.

There is a material addition in the number of Camps paying death benefits as well as an increase in the amount paid. Especially is this noticeable in New Jersey, where of her 26 Camps, 18 pay death benefits, each to the amount of \$250.00. New York has 22 Camps who pay an average of \$127.95. Ohio has one paying \$150.00. Maryland one which pays \$250.00, and Pennsylvania 58 Camps paying an average of \$180.00 each.

Commander Darling, I thank you for the honor conferred upon me. I assure you that it will be in lasting remembrance that I recall our pleasant relations during this official year now closed.

Respectfully submitted,

DAN S. GARDNER, M.D.,

Surgeon-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports, under the rule. I hear no objection and it will be so referred.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Next in order is the report of the Chaplain-in-Chief. Chaplain-in-Chief Veazey is not present. Is there any report from the Chaplain-in-Chief?

The Adjutant-General: Commander, I am advised by a communication from the Chaplain-in-Chief that at the last moment he found it impossible to get away, and therefore he is not with us at this Encampment. The letter was written from Woodsville, N.H., and he forwards the following report: —

To CHARLES K. DARLING,

Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Dear Sir and Brother: In making my annual report of the achievements of our Order, of which record has been made in every department, I do so with sincere regret that the report is so incomplete. Every possible endeavor has been made to secure reports from every Camp in the Order, but in spite of this we are unable to form any idea that even approximates exactness of the observance of Memorial and other days, for the proper observance of which our Order exists. At this date, five Divisions, amongst them several of the largest in the Order, have failed to report to me, though one hundred days have passed since Memorial Day.

I feel, however, that the majority of the Division Chaplains have worked harder and have demonstrated a more earnest desire to make

our Order more efficient in the attainment of its objects than ever before. Many of them issued circulars in addition to the circulars of this department, calling attention to the sacred duties of Union Defenders' and Memorial Days. The subjoined statistical table will show to whom most honor is due for promptness and thoroughness in the work of gathering and submitting reports.

The reports evince a remarkable indifference to the especial day of our Order — Union Defenders' Day. It is a record in which we can take no pride. I trust that this fact may inspire in us the resolution to make next year's report one worthy of our high aims and heritage.

The Order is to be congratulated in the increased assistance given us by the clergy at the season of our especial public exercises, and in the fact that so many of our brothers are heard in words of loyalty upon the Nation's holy days.

Besides the routine work of this department, I attended, at your request, the Encampment of the Department of Georgia, G.A.R., where I made two addresses in behalf of our Order.

In view of the splendid loyalty and the unsurpassed bravery of our brothers who fell in order that the blessing of freedom might be with the people of Cuba, I would suggest that in our future observances of Memorial Day their memories shall be formally cherished and the tokens of our love manifested. They have been nobly true to the blood of their heritage, and have demonstrated the usefulness of the Order we love.

I regret exceedingly that business of most immediate and pressing importance will prevent me from being with the hosts at Omaha, and wish for every member of the Order there, and elsewhere, the fullest success and the highest happiness possible to men.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

HARRY L. VEAZEY,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

DIVISIONS.	Number of Camps in Division.	Number of Brothers belonging to Camps reporting.	Number of Brothers in Line Memorial Day.	Number of Brothers Armed and in Line.	Numbers of Brothers Uniformed in Line.	Number of Firing Squads.	Number of Addresses delivered by Sons of Veterans.	Number of Brothers attending Service Memorial Sunday.	Number of Camps observing Union Day.	Number of Deaths in Camps in last twelve months.	Number of Funerals attended by Camps in a Body.		Number of Burials conducted by Camps.		Number of Camps Re-Reporting.		Number of Camps not Reporting.	Per cent. of Camps Reporting.	Reports received.	DIVISION CHAPLAINS.
											G.A.R.	S.V.	G.A.R.	S.V.	Number of Camps using Memorial Services.	"A"					"B"
Ala. and Tenn.	18	161	77	5	4	1	5	57	1	2	1	2	1	1	8	10	44.4	26	Aug.	F. W. Chapman
Cal. and H.I.	12	265	146	43	30	4	8	142	3	2	3	2	2	2	10	2	33.3	Aug.	A. J. Weinert	
Colorado	10	118	69	2	54	4	2	73	3	1	3	1	1	1	6	4	60.	July	Samuel Reiss	
Connecticut	25	706	416	179	381	2	3	340	5	4	2	4	2	2	22	3	88.	June 30	Rev. J. E. Zeiter	
Gulf																				
Illinois	92	1,176	817	397	452	12	20	694	18	3	12	19	2	2	34	58	36.	Aug.		Rev. A. G. Blienik
Indiana																				
Iowa																				
Kansas	85	1,376	852	265	316	27	19	759	21	6	5	6	3	7	52	33	60.	Aug.		S. A. Houston
Kentucky	17	142	66	36	40	1	3	21	3	1	1	1	1	1	6	11	35.3	Aug.		Geo. E. Field
Maine	52	1,262	726	200	574	10	8	631	13	5	4	14	4	6	40	12	77.	June 27		Chas. F. Paine
Maryland	24	444	213	34	141	3	9	222	9	1	1	2	1	2	20	4	83.3	Aug.		Paul F. Newell
Massachusetts	135	4,102	3,072	627	2,757	16	29	2,206	49	22	3	19	7	9	122	13	90.1	Sept.		Rev. I. C. Smart
Michigan	65	1,486	1,040	449	862	24	13	796	25	7	20	9	3	5	51	14	86.7	July		J. A. Mabbs, M.D.
Minnesota	34	547	327	117	172	15	3	227	9	3	4	3	3	3	21	13	61.7	Aug.		G. L. Woodworth
Missouri	44	901	288	28	130	6	8	211	9	3	6	3	3	3	26	18	59.1	Aug.		W. F. Anderson
Nebraska	26	332	209		50	5	6	226	3	3	1	3	3	1	16	10	61.5	July		P. R. Borgquist
New Hampshire	21	557	388	63	339	2	1	292	3	2		2	1	1	19	2	92.	Aug.		A. J. Kimball
New Jersey	27	734	446	352	394	11	11	385	14	4	25	3	3	5	23	4	96.3	June 30		J. A. Bischoff
New York	133	3,360	2,089	699	1,520	21	45	1,935	50	20	42	23	11	13	97	36	73.	July		Rev. W. K. Townner
Ohio	74	392	254	121	166	5	1	238	3	5	12	2	4		13	61	17.6	Aug.		S. B. Salmon
Oregon																				
Pennsylvania	155	5,915	3,606	1,837	2,789	71	62	2,773	66	31	133	31	31	26	113	42	72.9	June 24		H. G. Deteriler
Rhode Island	12	314	205	123	178	3	1	180		1	1	1	1	1	11	1	91.6	June 13		Rev. H. C. Dana
South Dakota	23	252	182	20	73	4	6	140	2	1				1	15	8	65.2	July 7		Chas. R. Fisher
Vermont	41	481	272	74	207	5	5	279	6	1	2	1			19	22	46.3	July 30		W. E. Edwards
Washington	24	223	163	95	87	7	5	143	7	1	12	1	1	2	10	14	41.6	June 28		Rev. S. S. Sulliger
West Virginia																				
Wisconsin	44	316	177	21	90	4	7	88	3	2	3	1	1	1	12	32	27.	July 15		E. W. Thomas
Totals	1,293	25,562	16,130	5,787	11,806	263	280	13,058	325	136	331	150	41	89	766	427				

The Senior -Vice-Commander: If there is no objection, the report of the Chaplain-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports. I hear no objection, and it will be so referred. Has the Council-in-Chief any further report to submit?

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Not at this time, Commander.

RECEPTION AND REFERENCE OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM
DIVISIONS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Then we will pass the report of the Council-in-Chief. The next business in order is the reception and reference of communications from Divisions, to be called in alphabetical order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

E. K. Gould of Maine: Commander, the Maine Division has a resolution it would like to offer, to be referred to the Committee on Resolutions, but unfortunately we haven't it with us, and we would like permission to refer it to the committee later on.

The Senior Vice - Commander: If there is no objection permission is granted the Maine Division to present their communication later on.

E. R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, the Division of Maryland had certain matters prepared to submit to this Commandery, but our delegate-at-large, who has charge of the papers, has not arrived, and we ask permission to file these papers later.

The Senior Vice-Commander: They may be submitted tomorrow, or at some future meeting, unless there is objection. The Chair hears none.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Senior Vice-Commander, on behalf of the delegates from Minnesota I would like permission to report tomorrow.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The permission is granted, unless there is objection.

J. O. Damm of Missouri: Commander, the Division of Missouri has a resolution which they would like permission to refer to the Committee on Ritual.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Present it to the chairman of that Committee.

E. W. Estes of New York: Senior Vice-Commander, New York has a resolution which we desire to submit to the Committee on Resolutions later, with the permission of the Commandery-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Permission is granted.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, the Ohio Division has some amendments to the Constitution to propose.

The Senior Vice-Commander: They will be referred to the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, of which the brother is a member, I believe.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, with your permission and the permission of the Commandery we will hand our resolutions to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The resolutions from the Division of Pennsylvania will go to the Committee on Resolutions if there is no objection. The Chair hears none.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll of Divisions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAMPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The reception and reference of communications from Camps and individuals is the next order of business. Are there any communications to be referred under this head?

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I would suggest that permission be granted Camps and individuals to submit whatever they have to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, without calling the roll here. That will facilitate our work. I make that as a motion.

F. E. Ernst of Missouri: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

SONS OF VETERANS HOLDING COMMISSIONS IN U.S. ARMY.

Grant W. Harrington of Kansas: Senior Vice-Commander, after the reading of the report of the Adjutant-General, there was a motion passed to add to the list of names in the Adjutant-General's report of members of the Order who had enlisted and were holding commissions in the United States service, the names of any other members of the Order of Sons of Veterans who have enlisted in the army and are holding commissions in the volunteer service at the front. It seems to me that at this time the roll of Divisions ought to be called, in order that Division Commanders may report to the Adjutant-General the names of those in each Division who have enlisted and are holding commissions; or a list might be prepared by the Division Commanders and sent to the Adjutant-General. I move that the roll of Divisions be called, and as it is called, each Division report the names of its members who hold commissions in the volunteer service.

M. L. Cormany of Minnesota: Senior Vice-Commander, we are not ready to do that yet. It will take some time to prepare such a list. It should be done with care, in order that no one may be omitted.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair understands that matter has already been determined, and that any member of the Order who is conversant with any facts, or name of any brother who is holding a commission, will report the name of such brother or brothers to the Adjutant-General. It should be done at as early a date as possible. It may be done at once, but the Chair will rule that they may be submitted in writing to the Adjutant-General at any time during the Encampment. The Chair understands that was the intention of the motion and will rule accordingly.

P. A. Barrows of Nebraska: Senior Vice-Commander, is this list to be of those who enlisted, or does it mean just those who hold commissions?

The Senior Vice-Commander: All brothers of the Order who hold commissions. Captains and Lieutenants, and above those grades, are commissioned officers. They are warrant officers below that.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I wish to say it will be impossible at this meeting for the different delegations to make a full report of the Sons of Veterans who have been commissioned from the various States, and it seems to me unwise that only a portion should be reported on this list; and I would ask that some action be had either tomorrow or at some future meeting whereby a complete list from the various States of the members of this Order who have received commissions may be submitted to the Adjutant-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will hold on that point that the names of brothers who are holding commissions in the United States army may be sent later to the Adjutant-General.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I now move that we take recess until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

TUESDAY — MORNING SESSION.

TUESDAY, Sept. 13, 1898, 10 o'clock A.M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you will come to order.

The Inspector-General will ascertain if all present are entitled to remain.

The Inspector-General: Senior Vice-Commander, I am satisfied that all present are entitled to remain.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, there is a very pleasant surprise for the Encampment this morning. I have been requested by the Massachusetts delegation to bring before this Commandery-in-Chief the portrait of a gentleman whom we all love and respect, a gentleman whom we cannot see in fact, but whom we can see and love in this portrait — Major Darling [Applause]. The Massachusetts delegation presents this portrait of Major Darling to the Encampment.

The first business in order this morning is the report of committees. Are there any committees ready to report? I will not call for them in order, but if any are ready to report, let the chairman so announce.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Harlan Thomas of Colorado: Commander, the Committee on Resolutions had a meeting last evening and passed upon the only resolution, submitted by E. R. Campbell of the Maryland Division, which has been thus far presented to that committee. The resolution is in connection with the National Reunion Monument Association and the erection of a monument at Washington, D.C., in honor of the soldiers,

sailors and marines of the war of 1861-65. The resolution is as follows:—

Resolved, by the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., in Encampment assembled: That the "National Reunion Monument Association," composed of members of the several army corps, which was organized under the laws of the District of Columbia for the purpose of erecting a monument in the Capitol City to the private soldiers, sailors and marines who died fighting for the preservation of the government established by their forefathers, and whose valor gives to us the honorable title we are permitted to assume; and in view of the fact that our Order is delegated the same scope, power, limitation and authority in said Association as is given an army corps, and claiming the right to participate in the honor, and to share the expense of this great work, we hereby endorse this patriotic enterprise, and pledge ourselves to assist in soliciting funds for same; and that this resolution, together with the accompanying report,* which shows the status of said association, become a part of the proceedings of this Encampment.

The committee has concurred in the resolution, and I move its adoption.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to and the resolution was adopted.

* REPORT OF THE NATIONAL REUNION MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE NATIONAL REUNION MONUMENT ASSOCIATION. }
WASHINGTON, D.C. }

To the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Comrade: At the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Indianapolis in 1893, the National Reunion Monument Association of Washington, D.C., was recognized and charged with the work of raising the long-desired monument in the National Capital to the soldiers, sailors and marines of the War of the Rebellion, and the committee which the National Encampment had previously authorized for that purpose was discontinued. The Commander-in-Chief followed up this indorsement of the National Reunion Monument Association by a General Order, commending it and its objects to the comrades of the Order. The Association went ahead with new zeal and bright prospects of success, but the setting in of the financial depression of 1893 made hopeless the securing of any considerable contributions. It seemed that, for the time, the most urgent duty before all veterans and their friends was the care of the living comrades, rather than building monuments to the dead.

Consequently, the Association suspended active efforts until the outlook became more propitious. This seemed to be the case at the beginning of this year. The Association was then called together, and addressed itself anew to its great work. Scarcely had it gotten itself in shape, however, when the Spanish war became imminent, and it seemed useless to appeal to the people while their minds were so thoroughly engrossed by the momentous struggle.

But the Association has employed the time in getting ready for a sustained, comprehensive, far-reaching effort, which, it is sanguine, will win success. It has been perfecting plans and organizing machinery with a view of reaching, in the most effective way, every man, woman and child in the country, and securing his or her interest in and contribution to a monument which, in grandeur and artistic merit, will not be surpassed by anything of the kind in the world's history.

The Association aims at something that, in expensiveness, æsthetic value and artistic beauty will be far superior to any memorial erection now found in any country. It conceives something that shall be a work of genius—something that shall be so notable in every respect that the greatest artists of the world shall compete for the honor of furnishing the design. It must be something far above the hackneyed and conventional, so that when erected it will be

to the city of Washington and the whole American nation what grand cathedrals, abbeys, arches and columns, and other triumphs of art are to their respective countries. It desires something which will attract equal attention for its commemorative object and its artistic grandeur.

Nothing less than this will be worthy of the glorious host of citizen soldiers and sailors which it is intended to commemorate; nothing less will be worthy of the proud nation which they rescued from destruction and firmly started anew upon its splendid career.

It must be a monument whose magnificence will represent the offerings of 80,000,000 free, happy, prosperous, grateful people. It must be a monument worthy, as far as stone and bronze can go, of 2,500,000 young heroes, who left a half million dead to mark the way of duty, honor and glory, they followed over 2,000 sanguinary battlefields. It must be such a monument as wealth and fame can stimulate genius to conceive and create. In brief, it must be such a monument as the richest, proudest, greatest nation in the world should erect to testify to all ages to come, her appreciation of the men whose valor and self-sacrifice did most to make her rich, proud and great.

The erection of such a monument is possible, if gone about in the right way. The Association, filled with high conceptions of what can be and what should be, is faithfully striving to find and follow that right way, and it earnestly solicits the advice, sympathy, and enthusiastic support of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in carrying forward these conceptions to glorious fulfilment.

The Association is preparing for its work by the formation of committees which will present the scheme to the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union Veteran Legion, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Sons of Veterans, the Woman's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the G.A.R., the Daughters of Veterans, and each of the many other patriotic societies in the country, to the children of the public schools in every State, and to the public at large in all parts of the country. Each of these committees will work the field allotted to it thoroughly, and endeavor to secure the fullest coöperation of everybody who can help in the least. They will emulate one another in the amounts they can secure and the help given in furtherance of the enterprise. In the end we hope that no possible contributor will remain unsolicited, and in the most effective way.

The Association has secured, in addition to the cordial endorsement of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, that of the National Encampment of the Union Veteran Legion. It hopes to secure the same from the National Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the G.A.R., and the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, and other patriotic organizations.

Last winter the Association secured the passage by both houses of Congress of a joint resolution recognizing the Association, and giving it the privilege of erecting a monument upon a public reservation in the city of Washington. This was approved by President McKinley, and is now part of the laws of the land.

The Association urgently appeals to the National Encampment to take extraordinary action in favor of this great enterprise. If we are ever going to build a monument to the soldiers, sailors and marines of the War of the Rebellion, now is the time to start the work with a vim and unity of effort that will secure its completion within a few years, that hundreds of thousands of our comrades may rejoice over it before they pass from earth. It seems to this Association that this is the most momentous subject that can come before the present National Encampment. It will be a great legacy for the Grand Army of the Republic to leave to posterity. It will be far more than an eternal testimonial to the valor, patriotism and fortitude of the men of 1861-'65. It will be a temple of patriotism, which will teach to every generation that is to come that the most glorious thing in the world is to be a true-hearted, public-spirited, self-sacrificing American man, ready at any call of his country to go forth and die, if need be, in defence of our laws and institutions. Such a monument, pre-eminent in magnificence and beauty among the stately buildings in the capital of the nation, will make every boy and girl under the ægis of the Star Spangled Banner a better American.

The Association earnestly urges the National Encampment to lay this enterprise deeply to heart, and to take such steps as will bring it before the Grand Army of the Republic and the whole country, as the strongest wish and desire of the veterans of the Republic. Let us have this made one of the great objects of our Order, and so placed before the people. Let the Posts in every community be stimulated to work for it among their fellow citizens. If we do this with zeal and unanimity there will be no difficulty about collecting funds enough from the people to raise the finest creation that the sun has shone on since the Parthenon first raised its peerless columns.

The veterans of the War of the Rebellion deserve no meaner monument.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

WM. H. MICHAEL,

President.

ATTEST:

ISRAEL W. STONE,

Recording Secretary.

ACCEPTANCE OF PORTRAIT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, before we proceed further I think it would be in order at this time, and I make the motion, that the Commandery-in-Chief accept the splendid portrait of Commander-in-Chief Darling, and that we extend the thanks of this Encampment to the Massachusetts delegation for the same.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

GREETING TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, in this connection I make another motion, that the Adjutant-General be instructed to convey the greetings of this Encampment, by cablegram, to Commander-in-Chief Darling.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The following cablegram was forwarded:

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 13, 1898.

DARLING,

Sixth Massachusetts, Ponce, Porto Rico.

Encampment's greetings.

COGSHALL.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations ready to report? Is the Committee on Ritual ready to report?

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, the Committee on Ritual is not ready to report yet, but will be shortly.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report further? The Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work?

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work reports progress.

The Senior Vice-Commander: What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

George H. Hurlbut of Illinois: Commander, would it not be in order for the Committee on Credentials to make another supplemental report? One of our delegates, Past Colonel Orner, has arrived, but his

credentials have not been passed upon and he feels that until that is done he has no right to participate in the proceedings of the Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Have the Committee on Credentials any supplemental report to make?

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Adjutant-General: On behalf of the Committee on Credentials, I would report that the credentials of ten additional brothers have been passed upon and approved, making a total of 127 votes in the Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The statement of the Adjutant-General will stand as a supplemental report of the committee unless there is objection. The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, we ought to know who they are, their names.

The Adjutant-General: S. C. Tipton and H. O. P. Klein of the Indiana Division, substitute delegates; H. J. Kline, Past Commander of the Missouri Division, James D. Rowen, Past Commander of the Iowa Division, J. H. Heine, Delegate-at-Large, Nebraska Division, R. Shaw Van, Alternate, Iowa Division, J. V. Lyon, Iowa Division, L. F. Schultz, Delegate, Indiana Division, C. T. Orner, Past Commander, Illinois Division, F. W. Briggs, Delegate, Pennsylvania Division.

The Senior Vice-Commander: What shall be done with the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials?

Eugene Kreider of Washington: Commander, I move the adoption of the report of the committee.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

IN RELATION TO QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander and brothers, I ask permission to occupy the floor to say a few words in relation to our retiring Quartermaster-General, Brother Loebenstein. Those of us who are familiar with his daily work, who understand and appreciate all that he has done for this organization, desire to leave on record some testimony to his faithfulness and efficiency. His brothers of the Division of Missouri have undertaken to prepare some memento to be given him as a token of the high regard and esteem in which he is held in the organization. It has been contributed to quite generously, but I feel that the Order at large, as an Order, should be represented in that token, and for that purpose I will ask that this Commandery-in-Chief vote him the gold cross of the Order, and I will ask, as a special mark of distinction, that this Commandery-in-Chief contribute some amount to this end. Of course this is not usually done, but I ask it in order that this gold cross conferred upon Brother Loebenstein may have some special significance. The amount that the Commandery-in-Chief may appropriate is not essential; but I will move that the gold cross of the Order be conferred upon the retiring Quartermaster-General, Brother Loebenstein, and that the sum of fifty dollars be drawn from the treasury

of the Commandery-in-Chief to go towards paying for that cross. I make the motion with the particular understanding that the motion in respect to the amount is subject to amendment. I mention fifty dollars because it is an easy sum to mention, and because it is not an excessive sum to contribute from our treasury; but if brothers should see fit to reduce it, I shall take no exception. As I say, the amount of the contribution of the Commandery-in-Chief is immaterial. I am only desirous that it should be represented in some sum in the purchase of this gold cross for Brother Loebenstein.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Commander, I second the motion, and I would like to have included in the motion the reason for conferring the gold cross; that is, for faithful service performed as Quartermaster-General for six years.

The motion was agreed to.

SONS OF VETERANS SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMY.

W. P. Feder of Kansas: Commander, if it be in order at this time, I would like to suggest a change in the resolution adopted yesterday. Brother Bolton in his report as Adjutant-General, mentioned the names of a number of brothers who are holding commissions in the volunteer army. He went as far as the knowledge at hand permitted him. He didn't know of anybody else. Then we voted that the names of all other members of the Order who held commissions should be added to that list. I propose now that we increase that list a little bit, and not make a distinction between the poor fellow who went as a private, and the fortunate fellow who went with a commission. [Applause.]

I move you, Commander, that, following the line suggested in General Darling's order, a roster of the members of this organization participating in the Spanish-American war be compiled, giving the rank the brother held in the Order, and the rank he holds in the army. We have one Camp in the United States where all of them went. We don't know who were the officers or who were not, but the entire Camp, with the exception of one, went to the front. I believe the privates ought to have this recognition as well as the officers.

Charles L. Pierce of California: Commander, I second that motion.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I would state to Brother Feder that this matter will be provided for in the report of the Committee on Resolutions, and I would suggest to him that he withdraw his motion, or let it lay over until the matter comes up in the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

R. Shaw Van of Iowa: Commander, I rise to a point of order. We have a Committee on Resolutions, and this matter is being considered by that committee and can only come before the Encampment by report of the Committee on Resolutions.

The Senior Vice-Commander: In the opinion of the Chair, the point of order is not well taken.

W. P. Feder of Kansas: Commander, I was not informed that the Committee on Resolutions had taken the subject up. Inasmuch as they are considering it, and as I don't care how it comes before the Encamp-

ment, so that it is considered, with the consent of my second, I will withdraw my motion.

The Senior Vice-Commander: I hear no objection and the motion is withdrawn.

STANDING OF THE MINNESOTA DIVISION.

M. L. Cormany of Minnesota: Senior Vice-Commander, I ask to be heard a moment in relation to the standing of the Minnesota Division. I feel I would be derelict in my duty if I failed to state and explain the reasons why the Division of Minnesota came before this body in the shape that it did. Some three or four weeks ago our report was sent to the Adjutant-General and it was sent back to us for technical reasons; and not knowing how to cure the matter by correspondence, I left it open until I should come to this body, and we were here a little late. Our train arrived at 11.30. We made all possible speed to this room and did everything we could to put ourselves in shape for representation on this floor, and I believe we ought to have the record put in shape. We don't want to be put on record as being in arrears, or anything of that kind. We don't want the records of this Encampment to show the Minnesota Division in arrears when it wasn't so, because we had the money in our possession and were ready to pay it, and had sent it in, as the Adjutant-General will tell you, and it had been returned to us with the report when it was sent back to us for correction.

I move that the records of this Encampment show that the Minnesota Division squared itself with the Commandery-in-Chief upon the arrival of its delegation, and it was only because of our non-appearance upon the floor of the Encampment that the matter got in the shape it was. I move that the records of the Encampment show that the report of the Minnesota Division was filed immediately upon the arrival of the delegation from that State, and the reason for the delay, and the situation as it was.

James D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I second the motion
After discussion.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move the previous question.

George W. Wolz of Nebraska: Commander, I second the motion for the previous question.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I also second the motion for the previous question.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The previous question is moved by Brother Speelman of Ohio, and seconded by brothers from the Divisions of Nebraska and Massachusetts. The question is, shall the main question be now put? Those in favor will signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed, the same sign. The previous question is ordered, and the question now is upon the motion of Brother Cormany of Minnesota. Those in favor of the motion will signify the same by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it, and the motion is agreed to.

What is the further pleasure of the Convention?

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Senior Vice-Commander, I desire to submit a further report from the Council-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant-General will read the report submitted by the Council-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General read the report as follows: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Brothers: The Council-in-Chief herewith begs leave to present its report of the proceedings and transactions which were presented to the said Council-in-Chief during the past year.

At the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, held at Indianapolis in 1897, the Council organized by the election of H. H. Hammer of the Pennsylvania Division, as Chairman, and C. Borin of the Kansas Division, as Secretary.

The bond of Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling was fixed to be in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and duly approved after proper inquiry and investigation as to the sureties.

We carefully audited the books and accounts of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, which we found correct and neatly kept.

The financial management and accounts of the Commandery-in-Chief were administered with economy and ability, and are deserving of our highest commendation.

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief is a source of great gratification and we congratulate this Encampment and the Order at large upon the flattering prospects for the future. The excellent report and comparative statements made by the Quartermaster-General are sufficient for your information without further reference herein.

We beg leave to present to your honorable body a recommendation that the *per capita* tax remain as it now is — four (4) cents per quarter.

The Division of Oregon has presented to us a request that the expenses incurred in the inspection of the Headquarters of that Division be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief. We present the matter to you in the shape we received it by the communications hereto attached bearing on the subject. The proposition in our opinion is of such importance as to warrant the disposition of the case by the Encampment and not by the Council-in-Chief, unless by your instruction or direction.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER,
GEO. E. COGSHALL,
C. BORIN,
JAMES W. NOEL,
J. E. HAYCRAFT,

Council-in-Chief.

The letters referred to in the report bearing upon the expense incurred in the inspection of the Oregon Division Headquarters are as follows: —

CORVALLIS, ORE , Sept. 7, 1898

CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief*,
Omaha, Neb.

Dear Sir and Brother: I find that it will be impossible for me to be present at the Encampment, as I have been hoping and expecting to do.

I trust you will have the matter of the inspection of this Division brought up and settled in some way. I have had some correspondence with Brother Courtney, the Adjutant-General, and also the Inspector-General, but have as yet been unable to obtain any satisfaction regarding the matter, and hope it may be settled at the present session of the Commandery-in-Chief.

I shall state the facts in the case for the benefit of the officers and brothers, hoping to assist in an immediate adjustment.

The Division of Oregon was inspected in January by Brother Courtney of South Dakota, and reference to his report will show that there were then about (\$24.00) twenty-four dollars in the hands of the Quartermaster. During the stay of Brother Courtney in this place we made a requisition for supplies for nearly all the money then in the treasury, supplies which were *very much* needed.

The total expense of the inspection was about one hundred and five dollars (\$105.00) of which O. L. Clark and myself paid fifty dollars, leaving Brother Courtney to bear the remainder.

I realize that the C., R. & R. requires the expense to be borne by the Division inspected, but since our treasury was without funds and my Adjutant and myself personally advanced nearly half of the expense; and also since such a rash thing was done as to send an Inspector nearly half way across the continent to inspect one of the *very* weakest Divisions, and over the most expensive part of the country, it seems to me to be anything but justice to expect individuals to bear this expense, simply because they happened to be in charge of the affairs of the Division.

I would simply ask that the Commandery-in-Chief pay the expenses of the Assistant Inspector-General for this Division, for 1898, and that some restrictions be made regarding such expenses in the future.

With the very best wishes for the officers and members of the Commandery, I remain

Yours very truly in F., C. & L.,

L. W. OREN, *Past Commander*,
Oregon Division.

OKOBOJO, S.D., Sept. 8, '98.

CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans*,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir and Brother: I had hoped to be with you at Omaha, but find that I will be unable to be present.

It is a great disappointment, as I had anticipated a good time at the Encampment, and of meeting the boys whose acquaintance was formed a year ago at Indianapolis.

Trust you will have a pleasant and prosperous meeting and a grand good time all around.

As you are aware, when Inspector Durston was making up his list of Assistant Inspectors, he asked me to inspect the Oregon Division, which was acceptable to myself and agreeable to that Division.

The Headquarters of the Division was inspected about January 18, '98, and was satisfactory to Colonel Oren and also to Durston. When it came to settle for my expenses it was found that there was not enough cash on hand to pay the amount in full, so Colonel Oren paid only a part of it.

The amount of the bill was one hundred and five dollars, of which Colonel Oren paid forty-five, leaving sixty dollars still unpaid. I after agreed to settle the amount still due for fifty dollars. The Division being small it was a large bill for it to pay, and on that ground I agreed to reduce the bill. In the deal I am out of pocket, if settled at \$95.00, about \$25.00.

The distance from Okobojo, S. D., to Corvallis, Ore., is nearly 2,000 miles, which you will see is no small distance, and besides board and lodging is no small item on such a long trip.

Had I been aware that each Division pays the expense of its inspection and that the Oregon Division was unable to meet the expenses of inspection, would not have accepted the position. As it was, neither Colonel Oren nor myself was able to say whether the Division or the Commandery paid the expense. It was a mistake in Durston's sending me that far, and is very much as you said at the Massachusetts Encampment, that "In the West it is a magnificence of distance."

Trusting that you will bring this matter before your Council, and that the amount, fifty dollars, still due me, may be amicably settled.

With best wishes to you and regards to all inquiring friends, I am

Faternally,

R. J. COURTNEY.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Council-in-Chief; what will you do with it?

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, the question presented by the report of the Council-in-Chief is one on which I, as a member of the Encampment, desire the opinion of the Council-in-Chief. Here is an item of expense which has been considered by the Council-in-Chief, and yet they give us no recommendation. They don't even suggest what ought to be done. I think this Encampment is entitled to the judgment of the Council-in-Chief on the subject, and for that purpose I move the report be recommitted to the Council-in-Chief with instructions that they make a recommendation, one way or the other, upon the subject.

E. R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, I second the motion.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I move as an amendment, that the report be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother Jones will state his point of order.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the amendment is not germane to the original motion, and therefore is not in order.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I move it as a substitute motion.

Isaac Cutter of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, it is not necessary to pass that motion. If the Commandery-in-Chief want the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief on this question, we are perfectly willing to make one. I do not think it would be proper to refer the report of the Council-in-Chief to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The Chair put the question on the substitute motion, and the motion was not agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question now recurs on the original motion, to recommit the report to the Council-in-Chief, with instructions to make a recommendation. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, the same sign. The motion is carried and the report recommitted.

What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY RESERVE.

E. R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, the Committee on Military Reserve is ready to report and the report is in the hands of the Adjutant-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant General will read the report of the Committee on Military Reserve.

The Adjutant-General read the report of the Committee on Military Reserve as follows: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Commander-in-Chief and Brothers: The Committee on Military Reserve, authorized by the Sixteenth Encampment of this body and announced in General Order No. 6, Dec. 18, 1897, has the honor to submit the following report: —

Pursuant to official notice of appointment, correspondence was had with my associates, F. B. Morse of Elizabeth, N.J., and W. E. Duncan of Philadelphia, Pa., and the committee was duly organized. Mr. Duncan made a trip to Washington and rendered valuable assistance in preparing the bill.

Bills having been introduced in the fifty-fourth and first session of the fifty-fifth Congress had been objected to, and a former committee had reported, and in compliance with the provisions under which this committee was established delegated to it the "power to draft a new bill, or to take other action to secure proper legislation in this matter," the following was introduced in the House of Representatives by Gen. W. W. Grout of Vermont, during the second session of the fifty-fifth Congress.

55th CONGRESS, 2D SESSION. H. R. 9510.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MARCH 26, 1898.

Mr. Grout introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

A BILL

Authorizing the Secretary of War to recognize the organizations of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America, as part of the military provincial reserve of the United States Army.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That upon application, made under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, any organization of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America, in any State or Territory or within the District of Columbia, may be inspected by an officer or officers detailed by the Secretary of War for the purpose of becoming a part of the military provincial reserve of the United States Army.

SECT. 2. That any organized company to the number of fifty making application as hereinbefore provided, and which passes satisfactory inspection by the officer or officers detailed to make the inspection, shall, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may determine upon, be recognized as a part of the military provincial reserve of the United States Army.

SECT. 3. That after any organization of the said Sons of Veterans has been so accepted as a part of the military reserve, said organization shall be subject to all rules, regulations and discipline as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

SECT. 4. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to arm and equip any organization, after said organization has passed the required inspection, with any of the arms of the Government such as in his judgment will be consistent with the arming and equipment of a military reserve.

SECT. 5. That the Secretary of War may, in his annual estimates for appropriations, include appropriations for that portion of the military provincial reserve of the United States Army that shall have been created under the provisions of this Act.

SECT. 6. That this Act shall take effect from its passage.

In view of the declaration of war by this Government with the Kingdom of Spain and events of subsequent development, no report on said bill was made by the House Committee.

It may be proper to state that the bill introduced by Mr. McCall was referred to the Committee on Militia, while that presented by General Grout went to the Committee on Military Affairs.

It is recommended that before further action shall be taken looking to an authorized military rank in the Sons of Veterans, that a legal opinion be obtained from competent authority as to the rights of Congress to pass such a measure, and that a sufficient sum of money be appropriated to cover the legislative expense incurred.

My most grateful thanks are extended to the Commandery-in-Chief for the courtesy and distinguished honor conferred.

Very respectfully,

E. R. CAMPBELL,
Chairman.

James R. Neeley of Illinois: Commander, I move that the report be accepted and the committee discharged.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The recommendations contained in the report are now before you. What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to them?

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move that the recommendation be concurred in.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, do I understand that this involves an appropriation?

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will state that it would so understand the recommendation; that it authorizes the obtaining of a legal opinion and the appropriation of a sufficient amount to pay the expense of the same. I would ask the chairman of the committee if that is correct.

E. R. Campbell of Maryland: Senior Vice-Commander, it was the intention of the committee that this matter be referred to some competent person to render an opinion as to the constitutional right of Congress to pass such a measure. If that can be handled in the body no expense will be incurred; otherwise it will be necessary to pay for that opinion. If it should be found that Congress has the right to pass

such a measure, an appropriation will be necessary to secure proper legislation.

Grant W. Harrington of Kansas: Commander, if this committee or any other wants legal advice, it should go to the Judge Advocate-General.

E C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I move an amendment to the recommendation of the committee, providing that it shall be done without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Commander, as a substitute motion I move you that the recommendations contained in the report be laid upon the table indefinitely.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: There are a number of telegrams and communications that the Adjutant-General has received, and if there is no objection he will read them at this time. Is there any objection? The Chair hears none and the Adjutant-General will proceed.

The Adjutant-General read the following communications: —

CINCINNATI, O., Sept. 12, 1898.

GEN. CHARLES K. DARLING,
Care of S. of V. Encampment.

Accept congratulations. Am sorry could not come. Regards to all.

FRANK O. WILKINSON.

CAMP MEADE, PA., September 12.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Sons of Veterans, National Convention,
Omaha, Neb.

May success crown your deliberations. Remember me to all.

ARTHUR B. SPINK,
Lieut. Co. G., First R.I. U.S. Vol.

LINCOLN, NEB., Sept. 12, 1898.

To the Officers and Members of the Sons of Veterans in National Encampment Assembled, Omaha, Neb.

Will you kindly accept the fraternal greetings of a resident of Nebraska, and a mother of a Son of a Veteran who enlisted at his country's call when the first appeal to arms was made in April last.

I hope for you a pleasant meeting in this State that we love so well, whose sons responded so promptly to the call that meant suffering and death for many.

We are glad to welcome you under the flags of peace. May your visit leave nothing but pleasant memories in the years to come. You have by your actions in the last few months bravely won the right to the noble name you bear. The heroes of the great Civil War may rest assured that the Republic they fought to save will remain safe in the hands of their sons and daughters, and in the keeping of the Eternal God.

May peace and prosperity, liberty and freedom, abide with you always is my earnest prayer.

Yours fraternally,

Mrs. EMMA B. MANCHESTER.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I move you that the Encampment do now take recess until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Harlan Thomas of Colorado: Commander, before that question is put, I move that the Adjutant-General be instructed to return to these parties who have sent us these greetings, the greetings of the Commandery-in-Chief — especially to the ladies.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Now, Commander, I renew my motion to take recess until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to and the Commandery took recess until 3 o'clock P.M.

TUESDAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 o'clock P.M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Encampment will please come to order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll. The Encampment will excuse me for running through the morning session without a calling of the roll. I overlooked this number in the order of business.

The Adjutant-General called the roll.

(Roll Call No. 2.)

GREETING FROM COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant-General informs me that he has a cablegram from Commander-in-Chief Darling, which you will all no doubt be glad to hear at this time.

The Adjutant-General read the cablegram from Commander-in-Chief Darling as follows: —

SONS OF VETERANS,

Omaha, Neb.

PONCE, Sept. 14, 1898.

From Mountains Utuado, Commander sends fraternal greetings.

DARLING.

[Applause.]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, there has been presented to the Committee on Credentials since our last report, the credentials of J. C. Eliot, Past Commander of the Nebraska Division.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If the balance of the committee have no objection, the statement of the Adjutant-General will be entered as a supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials. I hear no objection and it is so ordered.

I believe the Council-in-Chief have a further report to submit, and we will now listen to that.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Senior Vice-Commander, the Council-in-Chief, on the matter recommitted to us before the recess this morning, beg leave to submit the following report.

The report was read as follows: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

In the matter of the request of the Division of Oregon to be relieved from the payment of the expense of inspection of Division Headquarters in 1898, we feel that the small membership, limited means for recruiting, and general conditions in the said Division, warrant our leniency. We feel that the Division should pay a reasonable portion of the cost of its inspection, and recommend that it be the sum of \$25.00.

We also recommend that the Commandery-in-Chief extend a credit on account of *per capita* tax to the Division of Oregon, in the sum of \$25.00.

We do not desire that a financial hardship should be inflicted upon the Assistant Inspector-General, who acted under proper authority and according to orders, and therefore recommend that the sum of \$25.00 be appropriated by the Commandery-in-Chief to the said Assistant Inspector-General, R. J. Courtney, of the Division of Oregon in 1898. This sum to be paid on condition that it discharge the Division of Oregon from any further liability to Assistant Inspector-General Courtney on account of said inspection, and that no further request ever be made of the Commandery-in-Chief.

The Assistant Inspector-General detailed for this work should not have gone so great a distance owing to the expense incident to travel being so large; and for the same reason he should not have been detailed or assigned for the work.

The Assistant Inspector-General should have taken into consideration the great expense this assignment for inspection would involve; the Commander of the Division of Oregon also should have advised or informed the proper authority that the Division was not in condition to have such an expense imposed upon it.

The assignment of the Assistant Inspector-General was an error and was explained by the Inspector-General, which in our opinion is the cause or reason that the recommendations herein presented are only considered and same acted upon.

A fair solution and proper disposition of the case would in our judgment be that all involved should be held responsible which we believe is of sufficient extent as set forth herein.

In order to avoid any similar case in the future we recommend that hereafter no Division shall be required to pay, and no Assistant Inspector-General shall be allowed to charge for expenses, for inspecting any Division Headquarters, more than his actual expenses, not to ex-

ceed \$25.00, and that this action be promulgated in the order or authority making the details or assignments of Assistant Inspector-Generals.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER,
C. BORIN,
J. E. HAYCRAFT,
GEO. E. COGSHALL,
JAMES W. NOEL,
Council-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: This is a supplemental report to go with the report submitted by the Council-in-Chief this morning, or rather, it is in lieu of the portion of the report submitted this morning which returned to the Encampment without recommendation communications from the Oregon Division concerning the cost of inspection. Now what will you do with the report? The question is on the adoption of the report.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I move the adoption of the report as submitted by the Council-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations ready to report?

Edward K. Gould, Chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, submitted the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment:

Your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to submit the following report.

Upon the resolutions offered by Past Division Commander Marsh of the Illinois Division, the committee recommend the adoption of the following substitute as an additional section to Article III., page 53, Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 5. The dues of brothers who serve in the army and navy of the United States in time of war, may be remitted by the Camps of which they are members, during the time they are in the service, and while so remitted, Camps and Divisions shall not be required to pay *per capita* tax on such members. The names of all brothers whose dues are remitted shall be reported in the quarterly returns, together with the time said remission is to continue.

The resolution offered by the Surgeon-General in his report, concerning the time in which reports to the Inspector-General, Surgeon-General and Chaplain-in-Chief must be presented, and the penalty for failing to comply with the same, is returned to the Encampment without recommendation.

We recommend that the changes to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations proposed by the Division of Ohio, be non-concurred in.

We recommend that Article XXV., page 78 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations relative to the Quartermaster-General be amended so that it will read as follows: —

ARTICLE XXV.

SECTION 1. The Quartermaster-General's department shall be established and be made permanent, and the Quartermaster-General be made directly accountable to the Commander-in-Chief, indemnifying the Order against loss by a bond of ten thousand dollars, and there shall be upon said bond two or more sureties, each of whom shall qualify in a sum not less than five thousand dollars, and in the aggregate not less than twice the sum fixed in the bond; and the Quartermaster-General shall be elected by the Commandery-in-Chief, and his annual salary fixed at fifteen hundred dollars per annum. He shall hold office for three years.

This section shall take effect at the meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief in the year 1892.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD K. GOULD,
JOSEPH B. MACCABE,
W. W. BISBY,
R. D. HOULIHAN.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations is before you. The question is on the adoption of the report.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I beg leave to submit a minority report from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother Archer from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations submits a minority report from that committee. It will be read.

E. H. Archer of Ohio read the minority report as follows: —

MINORITY REPORT.

To the Commandery-in-Chief:

The report of the majority is concurred in except as to the recommendations therein contained upon the proposed amendments to Constitution, submitted by the Ohio Division, as to which the following minority report is herewith submitted:

Recognizing the present condition of the Order as evidenced by the official reports made to this Commandery-in-Chief, of the failure to comply with the present forms of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, and a manifested disposition to conform to the spirit of the amendment made at the Sixteenth Annual Encampment to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and believing that the future interests of the Order require a further extension of that spirit to said Rules and Regulations, the following amendments to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations are herewith recommended: —

Adoption of Article VI., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Adoption of Article II.; Camp Constitution, Section 1, and repeal Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Adoption of Article III., Camp Constitution, Section 1. Articles III. and IV., Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Repeal Sections 1 and 2. Adopt Article IV., Sections 1 and 2. Repeal Article V., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Adopt Article V., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Adopt Articles VI., VII., VIII., IX., X., XI., XII., XIII. and XIV.

DIVISION CONSTITUTION.

Article II., amend Section 1, parts 3 and 4, Delegates. Sections 4 and 5 amend.

Article IV., Section 5, strike.

Article V., Section 3, part 3.

COMMANDERY CONSTITUTION.

Article I., Section 4, amend.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Article I., amend Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Article III., amend Sections 1 and 2.

Article IV., amend Sections 1, 2 and 4.

Article V., amend Section 1.

Article VII., amend Sections 3, 4 and 6.

Article VII., amend Section 1.

Article IX., repeal Section 2; amend Section 3 and No. 2. Amend 4 to 3, and 5 to 4.

Article VIII., amend Section 1.

Article XIX., amend Section 1.

Article XX., repeal Section 1. Amend Section 2 to 1.

Article XXV., amend Section 1.

Fraternally submitted,

E. H. ARCHER,

Minority Committee C., R. and R.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the minority report from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

W. H. Russell of Kansas: Commander, I move the adoption of the majority report.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, is this the final report from this committee?

Edward K. Gould of Maine: I will say, Commander, we have passed on all matters that have been submitted to us.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I understand there are some other matters to come before that committee that have not yet been submitted to the committee.

The Senior Vice-Commander: It is not necessary to discharge the committee simply because they have made this report.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, am I to understand that the question is on substituting the minority report for the majority report, or will it require a motion of that kind?

The Senior Vice-Commander: It will require a motion.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Then, Commander, I move that the minority report be substituted for the majority report in so far as relates to the recommendations from the Ohio Division.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion; and I suggest that the minority report be taken up and disposed of section by section.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is on the motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report in so far as relates to the recommendations from the Division of Ohio. If there is no objection the report will be considered section by section, but the question is now on the substitution of the minority for the majority report.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, if Brother Archer will state the purport and effect of the amendments recommended by the Division of Ohio, and submitted in his minority report, the Encampment would be able to vote more intelligently.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection Brother Archer will be heard to explain the purport and effect of the amendments recommended by the minority report.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, the first article is a provision for acquiring membership, and that provision is similar to the action of the Encampment at Indianapolis, when it permitted the admission of candidates to membership in the Order by simply giving them the obligation and presenting the badge. That is to simplify the form under which we are at present attempting to operate. I do not believe that we are operating under it, but we are attempting to operate under it. It is to authorize the Commander-in-Chief, through the Division, to present a candidate, when he is admitted to membership in the Order of Sons of Veterans, a diploma of membership, so that he may have something to show, for which he has paid, and something with which to preserve a record to himself of his membership in the Camp. The same formula of application is to be followed, the same rule as to reference to a committee, and election to membership must be had at a regular or stated meeting, but he can be admitted to membership by orally assuming the obligation, or he may assume the obligation by subscribing to it in writing. It provides that membership shall not be less than three dollars, and the annual dues not less than one; and when he pays his dues he is to receive a membership card, and I might say in this connection, that this diploma is to bear a number, and that number is to stay with the brother so long as he lives and retains his membership. He will be known as No. 1 or No. 6 so long as he is a member of the Order.

It further provides that the present membership is to be provided with diplomas. The application and forms are to be provided by the Commandery-in-Chief, and through the Divisions they are to be furnished to the Camps, and the Camps shall return to the Divisions the names and numbers of the members who subscribed to these application forms, whereupon the Divisions shall issue and present a membership diploma; for which it is recommended that a fee of twenty-five cents shall be charged.

Now as to the Camp Constitution, the only change is that instead of requiring Camps to meet monthly, a provision is made that there shall be one annual meeting, and at that annual meeting the officers shall be elected and installed, and that the retiring officer, or any past officer, is authorized to install the new officers into office, without waiting to get a commission from the Division Commander. Special meetings may be called, as is provided for at the present time. The officers are to remain the same. Their duties remain the same and the only change further in the Constitution is in the First Sergeant's duties, and that is that he shall keep a record in which shall be entered these memberships in accordance with the numbers as they come from the Division.

In the Division Constitution, in Article II., in regard to membership, instead of using the words "Any representative" in part 4 of Section 2, it is intended to use the word "delegates," the same as in Section 3. For vacancies provision is made that the representation to a Division Encampment can be filled upon giving notice of twenty-four hours in writing, and calling a special meeting; and the representation to the Commandery-in-Chief shall be based upon the number of members in good standing at the annual meeting in December. Under the head of Division Officers it is provided that the Adjutant shall be required to keep his record of membership, maintaining this numerical order. Under Rules and Regulations the provision is made that the Commandery-in-Chief shall issue the charter upon the report of the Division Commander, or the mustering officer by him appointed, and that Division Commanders are authorized to approve and muster a Camp without the approval of the Commander-in-Chief.

Camp charters may be surrendered by a Division Commander when the membership is less than ten and in his judgment the best interest of the Order requires it.

Under Article VIII., Rules and Regulations, Section 1, Compensation. The Adjutant-General shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars and the Quartermaster-General shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars, said salaries to be paid monthly upon the order of the Commander-in-Chief.

The Quartermaster-General's department shall be established and fixed permanently for three years.

These, Senior Vice-Commander, are in substance and hurriedly, the proposed amendments to our Constitution, and it is intended that we shall, by our action at this Commandery-in-Chief, show a disposition to authorize the doing of that which will recognize the individual members as much as we recognize the Captain, the Division Commander, the Commander-in-Chief, or any other elective officer in any of the Divisions or the Commandery-in-Chief. It is to present to him a memorial that he can lay up and treasure and preserve, to show to his descendants an evidence that he was once a member of an Order which had courage enough to preserve the record of his father.

Charles S. Davis of Maryland: Commander, I move that the minority report of this Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be laid on the table.

The motion was seconded.

James D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I rise to a point of order, and that is, if that motion prevails it carries everything, the majority report as well, to the table with it.

The Senior Vice-Commander: That is undoubtedly the case. The question is on the motion to lay the minority report on the table. Are you ready for the question?

Charles S. Davis of Maryland: Then, Commander, with the consent of my second, I will withdraw the motion.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Does the seconder of the motion consent to its withdrawal? [Cries of "Consent," "Consent."] The motion to lay on the table is withdrawn.

James D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I move as a substitute motion that the majority report, so far as there is no objection made to it in the committee, be taken up item by item and disposed of; and when we arrive at the point about which there is contention in the committee, all the other matter will be out of the way, and then this Encampment can proceed to the consideration of that. I move as a substitute that we take up the majority report and consider it section by section until we come to the report with reference to the recommendations from the Division of Ohio.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, we are already doing that.

The Senior Vice-Commander: That will be the procedure under the ruling of the Chair. If there is no objection the first thing in order is the consideration of the first section of the majority report.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The brother will state his point of order.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, my point of order is that the original motion was for the adoption of the minority report. The succeeding motion was that the majority report be amended by the introduction of the minority report. That motion is now before us and has not yet been voted upon, and has not been withdrawn. Then there was a motion to lay that motion upon the table, and by unanimous consent the motion to lay upon the table was withdrawn, and the question now before the house is upon the motion to adopt the minority report.

The Senior Vice-Commander: I think if the brothers will allow this matter to proceed in the manner suggested by the Chair, the Commandery will arrive at the point we want to arrive at much quicker than in any other way. If there is no objection I will rule that we take up the majority report and consider it section by section until we arrive at that part of the report which covers the recommendations from the Division of Ohio. That far there is no objection, and the minority concurs in the majority report. We can take up all these matters and dispose of them, and then consider the minority report on the recommendations from the Division of Ohio.

James D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I move if there be no objection to any section of the report of the committee, that it be taken as agreed to, without a vote of the house.

The Senior Vice-Commander: It is so ordered, if there is no objection. The Chairman of the Committee will proceed with the reading of the report section by section.

CONSIDERATION OF MAJORITY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

Brother Edward K. Gould, Chairman of the Committee, proceeded with the reading of the report as follows: —

“Your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to submit the following report: —

“Upon resolutions offered by Past Division Commander Marsh of the Illinois Division, the committee recommend the adoption of the following as an additional section to Article III., page 53, of the Rules and Regulations: —

“SECTION 5. The dues of brothers who serve in the army and navy of the United States in time of war may be remitted by the Camps of which they are members during the time they are in the service, and while so remitted, Camps and Divisions shall not be required to pay *per capita* tax on such members. The names of all brothers whose dues are remitted shall be reported in the quarterly return, together with the time during which said remission is to continue.”

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there objection to this section of the report of the committee?

Charles L. Pierce of California: Senior Vice-Commander, as one of the members of the Committee on Resolutions, that came before us, I want to ask, does that go back, or will it commence with the beginning of this quarter?

W. A. Personius of New York: Commander, I don't know how we could take any action that would be retroactive. I don't believe we could make an amendment that would take effect before its passage.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: The back salary legislation in Congress was that character. Of course it can be done.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there objection? The Chair hears none. If there is no objection it will stand adopted. It is so adopted.

Chairman Gould continued the reading of the report as follows: —

“The resolution offered by the Surgeon-General in his report concerning the time in which reports to the Inspector-General, Surgeon-General and Chaplain-in-Chief must be presented, and the penalty for failing to comply with the same, is returned to the Encampment without recommendation.

“I will read the resolution: —

“*Be it resolved*, That the reports to the Departments of the Inspector-General, Surgeon-General and Chaplain-in-Chief shall be made not later than July first of each year. The officers of these departments are hereby forbidden to accept reports after this date; and all Divisions failing to report in accordance with this resolution shall be barred from representation at the following meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief.

“We submit this without recommendation.”

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, this section of the report is before you. What will you do with it?

James D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, under the report of the committee there is nothing before us on that matter.

W. P. Feder of Kansas: Commander, I suggest that the date be made August 1, for this reason: The Camp Chaplain's report is not due until the 30th day of May; and you cannot get the quarterly reports of Division Quartermasters in much less than thirty or forty days; I think the time should be extended.

The Senior Vice-Commander: There is no motion before the body.

W. P. Feder of Kansas: Commander, I move that the date be made August 1, and then I move the adoption of the resolution.

The motion was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: That is a double motion. I will have to rule that it is not in order in its present form, as it embraces two propositions. With your consent, I will divide the motion and put the question first on the motion to change the date from July 1 to August 1. Is there objection? The Chair hears none.

W. W. Bisby of Iowa: Commander, I move to lay this motion on the table.

The motion was not seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is on the motion to change the date from the first of July to the first of August. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed same sign. [Cries of "Division," "Division."] A division is called for. Those in favor of the motion will please rise and stand until counted. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed will please rise. The Adjutant-General will report.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, there are thirty-two brothers voting in the affirmative and forty-five in the negative.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion is lost, thirty-two voting in the affirmative and forty-five in the negative. The question is now on the adoption of the resolution. Those in favor of the adoption of the resolution will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is not agreed to, and the resolution is not adopted.

Chairman Gould resumed the reading of the report as follows: —

"We recommend that the changes to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations proposed by the Division of Ohio be non-concurred in."

The Senior Vice-Commander: Better skip that for the present.

Chairman Gould resumed the reading of the report as follows: —

"We recommend that Article XXV., page 78, Rules and Regulations, relative to the Quartermaster-General, be amended so that it will read as follows: —

ARTICLE XXV.

"SECTION 1. The Quartermaster-General's Department shall be established and be made permanent, and the Quartermaster-General be made directly accountable to the Commander-in-Chief, indemnifying the Order against loss by a bond of ten thousand dollars, and there shall be upon said bond, two or more sureties each of whom shall qualify in a sum not less than five thousand dollars and in the aggregate not less than twice the sum fixed in the bond; and

the Quartermaster-General shall be elected by the Commandery-in-Chief, and his annual salary fixed at \$1,500 per annum. He shall hold office for three years.

"This section shall take effect at the meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief in the year 1892."

Right here I might remark that this amendment touches simply the bonds. Under the old clause of the Constitution it is fixed arbitrarily that there shall be two sureties on the bond, and each surety shall be worth \$20,000. The committee considered that that might work a hardship on some brother, and we have given, in this amendment, the privilege to any man who may be elected and chooses to have more than two sureties, the aggregate liability of all shall be at least \$20,000, and the responsibility of each shall be at least \$5,000.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there objection to this section of the report of the committee?

F. J. Coates of Nebraska: Commander, I would move to amend that bond section so that it will read, "A bond in the sum of \$5,000 to be given by a Fidelity Company" instead of individual sureties.

George F. Wolz of Nebraska: Commander, I second that motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is now on the adoption of Article XXV., Section 1, as reported by the committee amended by the amendment of Brother Coates. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes have it, and the section reported by the committee, as amended, is adopted.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I want to offer a further amendment to that section, and that is that the premium on this bond be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief for the Quartermaster-General.

F. J. Coates of Nebraska: Commander, I will accept that as a part of my motion.

The Senior Vice-Commander: That will have to be made as an independent motion.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I make that as an original motion.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was not agreed to.

Chairman Gould: That concludes the majority report. It is signed, "Respectfully submitted, Edward K. Gould, Joseph B. McCabe, W. W. Bisby, R. D. Houlihan."

The Senior Vice-Commander: That disposes of the majority report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. What shall be done with the minority report of Brother Archer of Ohio?

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I move that the minority report be laid on the table.

The motion was seconded.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, with the consent of my second I withdraw the motion in order to give Brother Archer a

chance to put the recommendation of his Division before the Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the motion to lay on the table is withdrawn.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I understood that upon the conclusion of the consideration of the majority report, with the exception of the section in reference to the recommendations from the Division of Ohio, the minority report was to be taken up and considered section by section.

The Senior Vice-Commander: That was the understanding of the Chair. Brother Archer will proceed with the first part of his minority report.

CONSIDERATION MINORITY REPORT, C., R. AND R.

Brother Archer proceeded with the minority report as follows: —

“The minority report recommends the adoption of the following: —

ARTICLE VI.

MEMBERSHIP, HOW ACQUIRED.

“SECTION 1. Membership in the Order shall be acquired by making application on the forms provided for that purpose by the Commandery-in-Chief to a Camp at a stated or called meeting of the same. Said application shall be referred to a committee of three by the Captain of the Camp. Said committee may make its report the same meeting, and a ballot may be had at that or any subsequent meeting of the Camp.”

R. Shaw Van of Iowa: Commander, I move the adoption of the section recommended.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I object to the adoption of the section and call for a vote.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Objection is made to the section of the report read. Brother Shaw Van moves its adoption. Is there any second to the motion?

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Commander, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the question is not upon the adoption of this report article by article and section by section, but it is upon the motion to adopt the majority report, which was a substitute motion offered by the brother over there, and by consent, we took up those portions where the two reports did not conflict. Now the question before this house is upon the adoption or non-adoption of the original report, on the matter covered by the minority report.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will rule that the point of order is not well taken. The Chair will rule that it is in order to take up the minority report section by section and consider it in the same way that the majority report covering these matters was considered.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: And the Chair rules that this minority report is before the house, and not the original question, not the question of the substitution of the minority report for the majority report?

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair holds that we must take up and consider both of them, section by section, clear through. We

considered the majority report with the exception of that part of it which referred to the recommendations from the Division of Ohio, and this minority report is concerning those recommendations; and the Chair rules that its consideration is now in order.

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Then, Commander, I appeal from the decision of the Chair.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The decision of the Chair is appealed from. Will the Junior Vice-Commander put the question on the appeal?

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Commander, I withdraw the appeal.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander and brothers, if you will allow these sections to be read, and then if you want to discuss them all right, and if you want to adopt them all right, and if you don't want to adopt them, all right; but let us do business without undertaking to rehearse all the parliamentary law and usage that might have been in existence from the foundation of the world down to the present time. [Cries of "Hear them," "Hear them."]

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, in order to simplify the question, and keep the majority report unentangled from the minority report, I now move that the majority report, already considered, be now adopted as a whole.

The motion was seconded.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order. I submit that you can't take a part of a committee report in that way and act upon it.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The point of order, in the opinion of the Chair, is well taken. The motion is out of order. The question is now upon the section of the majority report which says it does not concur in the recommendations made by the Division of Ohio, which was passed at the time on the suggestion of the Chair. The chairman of the committee will read that section of the majority report.

Chairman Gould read the section of the majority report referred to as follows: —

"We recommend that the changes to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations proposed by the Division of Ohio be non-concurred in."

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, the Division of Ohio will endeavor to exist, and will endeavor to retain her membership in her Camps, notwithstanding you are refusing to listen to our suggestions. I now withdraw the recommendation from the Division of Ohio, and tell you to do what you please.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I object to the withdrawal of the recommendation from Ohio.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is objection, the withdrawal cannot be made.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I insist that this matter be decided upon its merits.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair asked for the reading of that portion of the majority report which bears upon this question, and it has been read. The recommendation of the majority report of the

committee is that the recommendation of the Division of Ohio be not concurred in. Do I hear any objection to the adoption of this section of the majority report?

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I object.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, I move the adoption of the recommendation.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, on that motion I demand a call of the roll.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, long ago a motion was made to substitute the minority report for the majority report. Pending that motion, by unanimous consent, we said we would take up these matters section by section.

Quartermaster-General Loebenstein: Commander, Rule of Order No. 26 provides for this case exactly, and if that had been followed there would be no complications here at all. Rule No. 26 says, "When a majority report is followed by a report from the minority of the committee, the former shall lay upon the table until the latter is presented, after which on motion, either may be considered."

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is now upon the minority report.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, let us hear the minority report of the committee.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion is to substitute the minority report, and Brother Archer will proceed with the reading of the minority report.

Brother Archer proceeded with the reading of the minority report as follows: —

SECT. 2. The ballot shall be with white and black balls, and a clear ballot required for election to membership. Any application which may be rejected shall not be again received until the expiration of six months thereafter.

SECT. 3. After the election to membership the applicant shall, if present, orally assume, and in absence, in writing subscribe to the obligation of the Order; the Captain of the Camp shall forward to the Division Commander a copy of the application with a certificate of the election to membership of the applicant, who shall cause the same to be recorded in the Record of Membership, which shall be numbered in consecutive order received, and thereupon issue and return to the Camp a diploma of membership in form provided by the Commandery-in-Chief, and bearing the signature and seal attested by the Adjutant-General of the Commander-in-Chief, and shall be countersigned by the signature and seal, attested by the Adjutant of the Division Commander.

SECT. 4. The Membership Fee shall be \$3.00, and annual dues not less than one dollar, which membership fee shall accompany the application and shall entitle the applicant, if elected, to diploma and badge, and in case of rejection of applicant the fee shall be returned to him.

SECT. 5. The Captain of the Camp shall forward to the Division Commander with each application for diploma and badge, \$1 00.

SECT. 6. Applications may be made to the Division Commander direct, and he is authorized upon satisfactory investigation to issue diploma and membership badges.

Such members shall be known as "members at large" and shall pay the same membership fee and annual dues direct to the Division headquarters, and upon request said member may be assigned to any Camp in the Division upon said Camp taking action the same as in cases of membership on transfer.

SECT. 7. Upon application of any member in good standing the Captain shall issue a transfer card of membership.

Membership may be acquired on transfer by making application to a Camp and depositing with said application the transfer card and payment of one year's dues.

SECT. 8. The Division Commander may issue an honorable discharge to any member of a Camp in good standing, and members of Camps who were in good standing at the time of dissolution shall be entitled to receive from Division Commander, transfer card or honorable discharge.

SECT. 9. Dues shall be paid in advance from date of admission to membership; and the Captain shall cause to be issued to each member, upon payment of dues, a membership card which shall be in the form prescribed by the Commandery-in-Chief, and bear the member's number, diploma number, and past rank by him held.

SECT. 10. The present membership of the Order shall be furnished diplomas by the several Divisions as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the Commandery-in-Chief, and blanks for records of members shall be forwarded to Captains of each Camp who shall cause each member to sign said application form and return same to Division Headquarters. The numbers given to members shall be in the order received at Division Headquarters. The fee for same shall be twenty-five cents for each member.

R. Shaw Van of Iowa: Senior Vice-Commander, I now move the adoption of the majority report.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion is out of order. The question is on the motion to substitute the minority report for the section of the majority report covering the recommendations from the Division of Ohio. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Hands down. Those opposed the same sign. The noes seem to have it. The noes have it, and the motion is not agreed to. The question now recurs upon the adoption of the majority report as submitted. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Hands down. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it, and the majority report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations is adopted.

Next in order will be the report of the committee appointed at the last Encampment to prepare a new eligibility clause for the Constitution. Brother C. T. Orner of Illinois is Chairman of the Committee. Is the committee ready to report?

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

C. T. Orner of Illinois, Chairman of the Special Committee appointed at the Sixteenth Annual Encampment to draft a new eligibility clause for the Constitution, submitted the following report:—

The Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

We, your committee, appointed by authority of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment to draft a new eligibility clause, would respectfully submit the following as our report, and recommend that it be adopted in lieu of

ARTICLE V. CHAPTER I.

SECTION 1. All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union Army or Navy, and of such State troops as were called into active service under the command of United States officers, during the War of the Rebellion, and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who, by reason of death or honorable discharge,

severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has ever borne arms against the Government of the United States of America.

C. T. ORNER, *Chairman*,
W. H. RUSSELL.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I move the adoption of this article.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

J. D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I move an amendment to the article, to insert immediately after the words, "or whose father has ever," the word "willingly," so that the sentence will read, "Or whose father has ever willingly borne arms against the Government of the United States of America."

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, the committee will modify the wording of the article a little, and beg leave to submit it in this form:—

SECTION 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army or Navy, and of such State troops as served under the command of United States general officers during the Civil War, and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who by reason of death or honorable discharge severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has ever willingly borne arms against the Government of the United States of America.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move to amend the wording of that article as reported by the committee, by striking out the words "male descendants" and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "sons not less than eighteen years of age." Strike out the words, "male descendants" and insert in lieu thereof the word "sons"; so that it will read, "All sons not less than eighteen years of age of deceased and honorably discharged soldiers," etc.; and strike out the words "Union Army" and insert in lieu thereof "United States service," so that it will read, "In the United States service."

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair hears no second to the amendments moved by the brother from Pennsylvania.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, I desire to submit the following amendment to the committee: To strike out the words, "male descendants" and insert in lieu thereof the word "sons," so as to make it read, "All sons not less than eighteen years of age of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines in the service of the United States during the Civil War."

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The brother will state his point of order.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the rules require that all motions and amendments shall be submitted to the Commandery-in-Chief in writing, and Brother Hammer is not conforming to the rule.

The Senior Vice-Commander: There is such a clause in the Constitution, and no written resolution has been sent in.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I move that the motion be laid on the table.

Charles L. Pierce of California: Commander, I second the motion.

W. H. Russell of Kansas: Commander, the committee have now modified the clause so as to read: —

SECTION 1. All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age of soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army or Navy, and of such State troops as served under the command of United States officers during the Civil War, and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who by reason of death or honorable discharge severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible, who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has ever borne arms against the Government of the United States of America.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, by consent of the Commandery-in-Chief I will withdraw my motion to lay on the table.

Charles L. Pierce of California: Commander, as the seconder of that motion I do not consent.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I move to amend the motion to lay on the table so as to make it read, "to lay this matter upon the table until the next session of this Encampment."

Charles L. Pierce of California: Commander, I am willing to accept that amendment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The amendment is then to lay this matter over until tomorrow morning. Is that amendment seconded?

The motion was not seconded.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move to amend the section so as to make it read as follows: —

"All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age of soldiers, sailors or marines who were in the service of the United States, and of such State troops as served under the command of United States officers."

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there a second to the amendment offered by Brother Hammer? The Chair hears none. The question is on the motion to lay upon the table. As many as are in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. [Cries of "Division," "Division."] Those in favor of the motion will so signify by rising to their feet. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed to the motion will now rise. The Adjutant-General will report.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, there were thirty-three voting in the affirmative and fifty-seven voting in the negative.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion to lay on the table is lost. The question now recurs upon the adoption of the report.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: And on that question, Commander, I move the previous question.

The motion for the previous question was seconded by brothers from two other Divisions.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The question is, shall the main question be now put. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The previous question is carried. The question is now upon the adoption of the eligibility clause as reported by the committee. Those in favor of the adoption will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The noes seem to have it. [Cries of "Division," "Division."] A division is called for. Those in favor of the adoption of the eligibility clause as reported by the committee, will rise to their feet and stand until counted. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed will rise.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, there are fifty-one voting in the affirmative and forty-three voting in the negative.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The clause as reported by the committee is adopted.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The brother will state his point of order.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the Chair is in error in pronouncing the eligibility clause as reported by the committee adopted. It is a constitutional amendment, and under the rules requires a majority of the aggregate membership of the Encampment to adopt it. Fifty-one is not a majority of the membership of this Encampment, and the amendment is not adopted.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair must rule that the point of order is well taken, and the Chair was in error. Fifty-one is a majority of those voting, but is not a majority of the membership of the body, such as is required to pass a Constitutional amendment. The section is not adopted.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I move that the Encampment now take a recess until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY — MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 14, 1898, 9.30 o'clock A.M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Encampment will please come to order. If there are any brothers present who have not yet presented their credentials they will please present them at once to the Adjutant-General, in order that they may be passed upon. I understand that some have come in this morning. The Adjutant-General will announce the names of brothers whose credentials have been passed upon by the committee since the last report; and if there is no objection from the other members of the Committee on Credentials, his announcement will be taken as a supplementary report of that committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, the credentials of Past Commander W. H. Davis of the Nebraska Division, Delegate C. E. Sampson of the Nebraska Division, and Alternate H. A. Russell of the Kansas Division have been passed upon and approved by the Committee on Credentials, and these brothers accordingly are entitled to seats and votes in this Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the brother's names will be accredited as members of this Encampment and placed upon the roll call this morning.

Before proceeding further with the business of the Encampment, the Inspector-General will please satisfy himself that all present are entitled to remain.

The Inspector-General: Commander, all present are entitled to remain.

The Senior Vice-Commander: I am informed that the Adjutant-General's book has not yet arrived, and we will defer the roll call for a few moments. Are there any committees ready to report?

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work is ready to report.

FREE ADMISSION TO THE EXPOSITION GROUNDS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Before taking up the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports the Chair would announce that arrangements have been made whereby all members of this Encampment who present themselves, wearing the badge of the Order, at the east entrance of the Exposition grounds, between 10 and 11 o'clock, will be admitted to the Exposition free of charge.

PAST HONORS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

There is one more matter to which I wish to allude. It has come to my ears, it has been stated to me, that in occupying this Chair as the presiding officer of this Encampment, I am taking from our Commander-in-Chief his past rank. I wish it understood positively that such is not the case. I take nothing from our Commander-in-Chief of his past honors. I am simply acting in his place and for him during this Encampment.

We will now proceed with the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, inasmuch as this is one of the most important reports that will come before this body, I think it should be heard by the entire Encampment, and I would suggest the probable absence of a quorum.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will rule that even five members of the Commandery are a quorum for the transaction of business in the Commandery-in-Chief, if the number has not been prescribed. I know of no reason why the other members of this Encampment should not be present at this time. It is not our fault if they are not here.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I rise to a point of order. Section 5, Article III., page 38 of the Constitution, Rules and Regu-

lations says, "A majority of all the officers and representatives reported present and entitled to a vote in the Commandery-in-Chief, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business." My point of order is that there is not a quorum present.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I submit that it is assumed that there is a quorum present until a roll call shows that there is not.

GREETINGS FROM THE L. A. S.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I am informed that a committee from the Ladies' Aid Society is in waiting to present the greetings of that body to our Order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Up to the present time the roll call has not been called, and there is no proof that there is not a quorum present; but to obviate any question about that matter, if we will now receive this committee from the Ladies' Aid there will probably be a quorum present when we are ready to resume business.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I move that the Encampment take a recess of five minutes for the reception of the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society, and that a committee be appointed to receive them.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will appoint as such committee Brother Orner of Illinois, Brother Goulding of Massachusetts, Brother Church of Illinois, Brother Haycraft of Minnesota and the Inspector-General. The committee will receive the ladies and escort them to the platform.

The Encampment now takes recess for five minutes.

The committee appointed by the Commander escorted the committee from the Ladies' Aid to the platform.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I have the honor of introducing to this Encampment the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society, who have come here to give us their annual greeting.

I have the pleasure of introducing to you Miss Freemans of Colorado, Miss Wallace of Indiana, Miss Russ of Iowa, Miss Kuhn of Nebraska, and Miss Fielding of Ohio.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Ladies, it gives us pleasure to receive you at this time, and unquestionably the Encampment will be pleased to hear your greeting.

Miss Freemans: Sons of Veterans, Greetings. We are a committee to bring to you the greetings of your Ladies' Auxiliary. For your deeds in the past we congratulate you, and for your future we tender our best wishes. Recent tests have proven that with the freedom of our country entrusted to our Sons of Veterans, "our flag is still there." Our hopes for your Order can best be expressed by the simple lines:

"You meet again in council, your labors to review,
The present to consider, the future to construe.
May wisdom guide you in the right, in all you do and say;
That good fruit may oft be reaped from seeds sown here today."

[Applause.]

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, I fully realize my inability to respond to the greeting of the ladies in an appropriate manner. I have ordered out a detail to search for Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe and Past Commander-in-Chief Russell, and the detail has not succeeded in bringing them in.

I will say to the ladies on behalf of the Order that it gives us great pleasure at this time to receive their greetings. We know full well the work you are doing, and appreciate the assisting hand which you hold out to us as an organization. We hope that the future of your organization may be bright and prosperous, and that the help and assistance which you have extended to us in the past may ever be held out to us. You are heartily welcome. [Applause.]

The committee from the Ladies' Aid retired, escorted by the committee appointed by the Senior Vice-Commander.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Encampment will now come to order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll.

(Roll call No. 3.)

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, the Committee on Credentials have to report that they have passed upon the additional credentials presented by the Division of Iowa certifying that Brother J. H. York has been appointed substitute for delegate-at-large.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The report will be received and adopted if there is no objection. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Noel will take the station of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, and Brother Parkinson of New York will act as Junior Vice-Commander.

The next business in order is the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work. We will hear from Brother Abbott, chairman of that committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORTS, ETC.

Chairman Abbott submitted and read the following report from the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work.

To the Officers and Brothers of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Your Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work respectfully reports as follows: —

At the request of the Acting Commander-in-Chief we increased the membership of our committee, by adding to its membership, Past Col. H. E. Cowdin of Michigan. Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe was relieved by the Commander from serving on this committee. Much of the work of the Committee on Resolutions and on Constitution, Rules and Regulations was passed directly to said committees without passing through the hands of this committee.

While we would be pleased to dwell in particular upon the excellence of the report of each officer submitted to the Commandery-in-Chief, time and space will not permit, but that each has performed his duty faithfully and well is evident from the good shape in which we find the Order, and the Commandery-in-Chief should feel grateful for the fidelity and assiduity each has displayed in his particular field of work.

That our beloved Commander-in-Chief responded early to his country's call and is now away serving loyally in a foreign land, is sufficient commendation of his work, and a sublime example that the teachings of our Order are not vain words, and that as its chief representative he has placed our star high in the firmament of our Nation's glory, winning our sublime admiration and applause. [Applause.]

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report of this committee will be considered under the rule adopted for the consideration of the reports of other committees of this Encampment, that is, section by section. You have heard the reading of the report thus far. If there is no objection it will be taken as concurred in. The Chair hears no objection, and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: Taking up the decisions of the Commander-in-Chief, we recommend that all the decisions of Commander-in-Chief Darling be approved, with the exceptions hereinafter noted: —

Decision XVIII. This decision holds that if a Division Encampment fixes upon a charge to be made for the issuance of commissions to Camp officers, and such officers decline to pay such charge, that the Division Commander may, after notice to the delinquent, order the officer next in rank to assume command of the Camp.

Your committee cannot concur in this decision for the reason that in our opinion when a brother is elected and duly installed in his office, his commission as such officer cannot be withheld for any reason by the authority whose duty it is under the supreme law of the Order to issue such commission, but that the law requiring the issuance of a commission to a duly elected and installed officer is mandatory and admits of no further contingencies.

This decision is reversed.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard this section of the report of the committee recommending the reversal of the decision, No. 18, of Commander-in-Chief Darling. Is there any objection to this section of the report of the committee?

Edward K. Gould of Maine: Commander, I wish to say that the recommendation of the committee is directly in opposition to the action of this Encampment taken some years ago. The decision of the Commander-in-Chief is right in line with the precedents.

The Junior Vice-Commander: There being objection, the question is on the adoption of this section of the report of the committee. Those in favor of the adoption of the report will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it, and the report of the committee is adopted.

Chairman Abbott: Decision XXIII. This decision holds that a Past Captain joining a Camp by transfer, takes precedence as such in said Camp from the date of his admission, rather than from the date when he acquired his past honors.

Your committee does not believe this to be the law, but would hold that such Past Captain would rank in seniority from the date of his attaining his past rank.

The decision is reversed.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection to this section of the report of the committee? If not, it will stand as adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: Decision XXVI. This decision is of the same tenor as Decision XXIII., and is reversed for the same reason.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection? If not it will stand as adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is adopted.

Chairman Abbott: Decision XI. In the Fremont Tietze case, while we sustain the right of the Commander-in-Chief to grant a rehearing in this case upon the ground of newly discovered evidence, we must hold that his action in trying and adjudicating the matter was unauthorized and void, and that such hearing should have been referred to this Commandery. However, we have taken jurisdiction of the case and having duly considered all the evidence, we find that the eligibility of said Fremont Tietze is clearly established. In view of such conclusion we recommend that said Fremont Tietze be permitted to make application to any Camp of the Order, and that any disabilities existing on account of any previous action of this body be removed.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection? If not, it will stand adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it will stand adopted.

Chairman Abbott: The special orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief have been reviewed and their approval recommended.

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection this section of the report of the committee will be approved. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: In the matter of the recommendation of the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, that in view of the work of Adjutant Eddy of the Michigan Division, he be given a medal of honor; while we recognize his splendid and successful work in the raising of Companies "L" of the Thirty-third and "B" of the Thirty-fifth Michigan Infantry, many others have also done similar work, and it would not be just to single out one individual upon whom to confer this distinction. We recommend that it be not concurred in.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection to this section of the report? If not, it will stand adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is adopted.

Chairman Abbott: In the matter of the recommendation of the Adjutant-General, in regard to Gould's Digest. We consider it a creditable compilation of the opinions and decisions heretofore rendered by Commanders-in-Chief and Judge Advocates-General, and commend it as such to officers and members of the Order.

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the section will stand adopted. The Chair hears none and it is so adopted.

Chairman Abbott: In reference to the matter of bonds — that is, the question of giving surety bonds, giving Camps and Divisions and Commander-in-Chief authority to accept surety bonds in place of personal bonds, we recommend that in States where there is statutory provision for surety bonds, that Camps or Divisions may receive the same, and the paying for them shall be optional, or shall be a matter of arrangement between the parties to the bond.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection to the section?

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I understand from the chairman of the committee that he apprehends that in some States a surety company bond would not be good. I confess that I can't understand that situation. I am perfectly well aware that in many of the States there are conditions attached to official bonds in this, that they shall be signed by freeholders, etc., but that does not refer to this Order. There could be no question in the world in my judgment but what a surety company's bond anywhere in the United States is a good, common law bond; and therefore I see no purpose in discriminating with reference to States, if it make the distinction.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I move this section lay on the table. As I understand, this matter is explicitly covered by the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

Chairman Abbott: In that case, Commander, it may be considered as withdrawn.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection from any member of the Committee on Officers' Reports to the withdrawing of this section of the report? If not, it may be withdrawn. The Chair hears none and this section is withdrawn.

Chairman Abbott: The recommendation of the Surgeon-General regarding the date of submitting reports, was referred to the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the section read is concurred in. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: We recommend that the petition of Camp No. 9, Division of Connecticut, relative to a Past Division Commander receiving past honors or receiving an honorable discharge be denied, on the ground that we have no constitutional right to grant the same.

Chairman Abbott: The resolutions referred to in the last recommendation are as follows: They are in the form of resolutions, but it is really a petition.

WHEREAS, Lucien F. Burpee was duly elected a member of and initiated into Chatfield Camp, Sons of Veterans, of Waterbury, New Haven County, Connecticut, in 1884, and continued an active member thereof until —, when said Camp disbanded, at which time, at his request, he was honorably discharged from our Order, holding the rank of Past Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Said Lucien F. Burpee became an active member of Abraham Lincoln Camp No. 9 in 1896, July 13, which Camp was organized in 1894, and has since continued to be and still is an active member thereof; now, therefore

Be it resolved By this Camp that it is our firm belief and claim that said Lucien F. Burpee by said discharge did not forfeit his said honors, and that if he did he became reinvested with them, and all the rights and privileges incident thereto, upon his initiation into said Camp Abraham Lincoln No. 9, July 13, 1896; and

Be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, properly authenticated, be presented at the next annual Encampment of our Order, to be held at New Haven on the 11th day of February, 1898, with the request that they be adopted and forwarded to the next annual Encampment for action thereon.

Dated at Waterbury, this 7th day of February, A.D. 1898.

The Junior Vice-Commander: You have heard the recommendation of the committee. If there is no objection to this section of the report it will stand as adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is so adopted.

Chairman Abbott: In regard to the eligibility clause recommended by the Judge Advocate-General, the same was referred to the special committee on that subject.

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the section of the report read will be adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: We concur in the recommendation of Brother Stillings relative to military instruction in public schools.

Chairman Abbott: The recommendation of Brother Stillings referred to by the committee is as follows: —

BOSTON, MASS., Sept. 8, 1898.

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Brothers: Having been detailed by the Commander-in-Chief in General Orders No. 6, to take charge of matters relating to the securing of national legislation furthering the interest of military instruction in public schools, I beg leave to report as follows: —

A bill was introduced in the Fifty-fifth Congress; in the House on Jan. 14, 1898, by Representative Hull and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs; in the Senate on Jan. 25, 1898, by Senator Burrows, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Owing to the pressure of other legislation caused by the late war, it was deemed inadvisable to press this matter, as the main object, which was the detailing of officers of the army and navy (both commissioned and non-commissioned) to act as instructors in military drill in public schools, could not possibly be attained during this period.

Thus practically no advancement has been made, though the prospect for successful work during the coming sessions of Congress should be very good indeed.

I received communications from nearly all Division Headquarters, detailing brothers for duty in this work, but have not issued instructions for the reasons previously stated.

All papers and instructions are properly filed and ready for the continuation of the work.

In conclusion I would respectfully recommend that a similar detail be made by the incoming Commander-in-Chief, as the opportunity for advancement in this direction is doubly good; the lessons taught by our late war will not soon be forgotten.

Respectfully yours in F., C. and L.,

CHARLES A. STILLINGS.

The Junior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the recommendation of the committee will be concurred in. The Chair hears no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Abbott: Commander, that concludes the report. It is respectfully submitted in F., C. and L., and signed "George B. Abbott, Chairman, William E. Bundy, W. H. Russell, and H. E. Cowdin, Secretary."

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the report of the committee as a whole.

L. E. Merchant of Michigan: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the report of the committee adopted as a whole.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

E. K. Gould of Maine: Commander, the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations have another report they would like to make.

The Senior Vice-Commander (having resumed the chair): If there is no objection we will hear from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. The Chairman will proceed.

Chairman Gould of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, submitted the following report: —

To the Commander-in-Chief and Officers of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations recommend the following amendment to Chapter V., Article VII., page 61, of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, as follows: —

SECTION 8. In all cases where bonds are required to be furnished by officers of Camps, Divisions, and of the Commandery-in-Chief, the bond of any surety company authorized to do business in the State in which the officer is required to give the bond, or any company authorized to transact business under an act of Congress approved August 13, 1894, may be accepted as sole surety thereon; and the premium on the bond of the Commander-in-Chief shall be defrayed from the funds of the Commandery-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the supplementary report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. The question is on the adoption of the report. If there is no objection the report will stand as adopted. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered. The report will stand adopted as read. What is the further pleasure of the Commandery?

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Harlan Thomas of Colorado: Commander, the Committee on Resolutions is prepared to make a partial report.

The Senior Vice-Commander: We will hear the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

Harlan Thomas of Colorado, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, submitted the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

The committee submit the following resolutions submitted to the committee by Camp No. —, Division of —, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.: —

WHEREAS, Recognizing the true patriotism, self-sacrifice and prompt obedience to the call of their country by the many Sons of Veterans, whether members of the Order or not, wish to record our appreciation, offer the following resolution:

“ *Resolved*, That the names of members of this Camp who are now, or have been, in the army or navy of the United States of America during the Spanish or Cuban-American War of 1898, be transferred to a roll of honor, and that they be relieved from payment of all dues.

That Sons of Veterans, not now members of the Order, who served in the United States army or navy in the Spanish or Cuban-American War of 1898 be invited to become members of the Order and this Camp, and upon favorable action being taken upon their application and their initiation, their names be entered on the rolls of this Camp as honorary members, and they be relieved from the payment of all dues.

That all honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges of active members (except the right to election as Captain, First and Second Lieutenants, and members of the Camp Council). Provided, however, if desiring to enter the line of office they may do so by tendering the dues, and shall thereafter become active members and subject to all dues.

That the foregoing does in no way relieve the Camps from *per capita* tax to the Commandery-in-Chief, which shall be the same as now, on all members in good standing in the Camp.

These resolutions are not signed and the committee does not recommend their adoption.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection the report of the committee will be concurred in. I hear no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Thomas continued the reading of the report as follows: —

Resolved, That the rank of Past Captain be conferred upon John F. Jenkins of P. C. Van Wyck Camp, No. 104, Division of New York.

This resolution is offered by the New York delegation and is accompanied by the following statement from the Commander of that Division, and James R. Swain, Delegate-at-Large: —

“ John S. Jenkins served as Captain of Post 92 of the Post System, Sons of Veterans, New York. His Camp was in existence a number of years prior to the consolidation in New York. Owing to dissension in the Post it was permitted to die, and Jenkins and the best class of the members of the Post formed a Camp in Sing Sing which is now

pursuing an honorable existence in the New York Division. Application was made to the Headquarters of the New York Division several years ago for information regarding the possibility of having past honors conferred upon Brother Jenkins, but the matter has never been presented to the Commandery-in-Chief until now. We cordially hope that there will be no objection to the request of the delegation being granted. If the committee cares to have any further information we will be pleased to impart it.

The committee recommend that the resolution be concurred in.

The Senior Vice-Commander: No objection being offered, the section will stand adopted as read. The Chair hears no objection and it is so adopted.

Chairman Thomas continued the reading of the report as follows:—

The following resolution and recommendation were passed by the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., and directed to be presented to the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief:—

HEADQUARTERS GEN. GEO. G. MEADE CAMP No. 16, }
S. OF V., PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION, U.S.A. }
READING, PA., June 10, 1898.

To the Colonel, Officers and Delegates of the Eighteenth Division Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Brethren: At the regular meeting of the Camp, held on Tuesday, May 31, 1898, the following resolutions were adopted:—

WHEREAS, On June, 1888, this Camp did court-martial Brother James Houser for conduct unbecoming a member in his relations to the Order, and

WHEREAS, Said James Houser has expressed his sincere repentance and has made a written request to be again allowed to become a member of this Camp, therefore

Resolved, That we, the brothers of Meade Camp, No. 16, S. of V., do respectfully petition the Eighteenth Division Encampment to instruct the delegates to the National Encampment to endeavor to have the verdict of "Dishonorable discharge" of said court-martial set aside and said James Houser reinstated as a member of this Camp.

Respectfully yours, in F., C. and L.,

GEORGE F. ECKERT, *Captain.*
BEN F. HOLLENBACK,
L. S. RAMSEY,

ATTEST:

H. A. GABLE, *1st Sergeant.*

Committee.

Your committee recommends favorable action by the Commandery-in-Chief on this resolution.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the report of the committee; is there any objection? If there is no objection it will stand adopted as read. The Chair hears no objection and it is so adopted.

Chairman Thomas continued the reading of the report as follows : —

PHILLIPSBURG, PA., June 14, 1898.

Resolutions presented by direction of Captain Edgar H. Ruhl
Camp No. 33, S. of V., U.S.A.

Resolved, That this Division Encampment instruct its delegates to Commandery-in-Chief Encampment, to be held at Omaha, Neb., to ask that the honors and rank of Past Captain be restored to brothers John C. Hoffman and Robert S. Stahle, of Camp 33, York, Pa.

The reasons for the above requests are hereunto set forth in Exhibits A and B.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

PAUL SMYSER, *Past Captain*.

H. G. LIGHTNER, *Past Captain*.

J. C. COLE, *Delegate*.

JOHN W. STAHLE, *Delegate*.

EDWARD W. NEUMAN, *Delegate*.

EXHIBIT A.

That Brother J. C. Hoffman having served faithfully and honorably as Captain of the aforesaid Camp, was through and by the carelessness or neglect of duty on the part of Quartermaster-Sergeant, dropped from the roll of the Camp.

Brother Hoffman is now a member of our Camp (for the past five years) and was the first Captain of our Camp.

EXHIBIT B.

Brother R. S. Stahle was a member in good standing and was serving his second term as Captain when he was shot down in front of the Captain's station in the Camp room, by a member whom he thought his friend, without a moment's warning. His life hung in the balance for a long time and he allowed himself to be dropped owing to the repugnance he felt to visiting the scene of his shooting.

He is now a member again and we ask the restoration of his honors for the good of Camp 33.

The committee recommend the adoption of the resolution.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there any objection to the resolution? If not, it will stand adopted. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Chairman Thomas continued the reading of the report as follows : —

PHILADELPHIA, May, 1898.

*To the Officers and Delegates of Eighteenth Division Encampment,
Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans.*

Understanding that Congress is authorizing the construction of many new war ships for the United States Navy, some to be named after States and Territories and others after distinguished men; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, whose name as yet has not been honored in the selection of names for any vessel of the navy; who in life was one of the greatest and most honest Presidents of the United States, true to the trust

that God and his people had placed upon him; a man gentle in spirit and charitable to all men; having no selfish aim or ambition for his own future welfare, but a life devoted faithfully in love to the uplifting of a poor and down-trodden race, that they might be free to share and enjoy the blessings that their Creator had given them, and assured in the Declaration of Independence that all men were created "free and equal," and who gave his life as a final sacrifice, that we might have a united country under one flag, redeemed from slavery into liberty with a new birth of freedom, "that a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, should not perish from the earth"; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the delegates of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, petition the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Omaha, Neb., to prepare a resolution and present it to Congress, asking them to make an exception and name a United States battleship "Abraham Lincoln."

(Signed)

EDEN M. BALLANTINE.

Endorsed:

W. B. McNULTY, *Quartermaster*.

The committee recommends favorable action by the Commandery-in-Chief upon the resolution, but recommends the striking out of the word "Abraham" in the proposed name.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Is there objection to this resolution recommended by the committee? Objection having been offered, the question is on the adoption of the resolution.

L. W. Kennedy of Colorado; Commander, I move the adoption of the resolution as recommended by the committee.

The motion was seconded.

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I would suggest that the name of the Secretary of the Navy be substituted for "Congress" in the resolution.

The Senior Vice-Commander put the question on the motion to adopt the resolution as recommended by the committee, and the motion was agreed to.

Chairman Thomas resumed the reading of the report as follows: —

WHEREAS, The events of the past year in our national life have demonstrated to the world that the patriotic teachings of our Order have quickened into action that love of country and glory in our flag which is the heritage of every Son of a Veteran; and

WHEREAS, When the call to arms was sounded by our beloved President that Cuba might be free, there came from Camp and Division and Commandery-in-Chief a quick and unanimous response; and

WHEREAS, In nearly every regiment of volunteers and in many of the ships of our navy, in this war with Spain, were found Sons of Veterans, faithfully and valiantly defending the flag of our country, even unto death; and

WHEREAS, Desirous of showing its appreciation of those of our members whose privilege it was to be enrolled in the army and navy of our country in the Cuban War, and to take part in the conflict for human liberty and progress; it is hereby

Resolved, By the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., that the Adjutant-General of the Order is hereby directed to have prepared for publication in the proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment a roll of honor which shall contain the name, number of Camp, rank in Camp and rank

in the service of the United States of every member of the Order who volunteered in defence of our country in the late war; and be it further

Resolved, That Commanders of Divisions are hereby ordered to have rolls prepared by Commanders of Camps forthwith, which shall contain this information, and to have such rolls forwarded to the Adjutant-General, within sixty days, for such publication.

The committee recommend the adoption of this resolution.

The Senior Vice-Commander: If there is no objection it will stand adopted. The Chair hears no objection and it is so adopted. The question is now on the adoption of the report as a whole.

Paul H. Limbach of Colorado: Commander, I move the adoption of the report as a whole.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The next business in order is the report of the Committee on Ritual. Is the Committee on Ritual ready to report?

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, the Committee on Ritual beg leave to submit the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Seventeenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

The Committee on the Revision of the Ritual begs leave to submit the following report: —

This committee was appointed under the authority of a resolution adopted by the Sixteenth Annual Encampment.

Pursuant to this authority, the Commander-in-Chief, by Paragraph 3, General Orders No. 6, Series 1897, announced the membership as follows: —

C. D. Rooney, Massachusetts, William Y. Morgan, Kansas, and Clark J. Tisdell, Illinois.

The first act of the committee was a request to the Commander-in-Chief for the insertion in General Orders of a paragraph asking the co-operation of the members of the Order generally, and of the Division Commanders especially, in the work of preparing a Ritual that would be satisfactory to the Order at large. This request was promptly complied with, and in General Orders No. 1, Series of 1898, the following appeared: —

“All brothers wishing to make suggestions with regard to the revision of the Ritual of the Order are requested to send the same to C. D. Rooney, Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Ritual, 307 Carter Building, Boston, Mass. All matters to be considered should be typewritten, if possible, and three copies sent in each case. Division Commanders are requested to forward in triplicate, copies of resolutions bearing on this subject, which may be adopted by the respective Division Encampments, so that they may be considered in advance of being presented to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Omaha. Commanders of Divisions are also

requested to embody the substance of this paragraph as far as it pertains to communications from Camps and individuals in their next order."

So much having been done, the committee awaited results, hoping that it would secure such suggestions and advice as would put it in touch with the sentiment of the Order throughout the country in the matter of Ritual. The committee regrets to have to report that its hopes were not realized. No Division Commander seems to have taken enough interest in the matter to even republish, as requested, the paragraph which appeared in the General Orders.

Capt. A. T. Bogue of Hartford, Conn., deserves special mention in this particular, he having issued a circular in behalf of his Camp which was sent to every Camp in the Connecticut Division, and as a result of this effort nearly every Camp in that Division adopted special resolutions expressive of their desires in the matter of Ritual, and forwarded them to the chairman of the committee. A few scattered resolutions were received from Camps in the Division of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and one individual communication each from Massachusetts and Maryland, but other than this there was silence profound and oppressive. The committee has no comment to make, except to express a hope that if its report be adopted and the changes it may suggest be put in force, that the criticism of its work be equally silent.

Although somewhat discouraged by the lack of co-operation on the part of Camps and individuals, the committee fostered the hope that the Commanders of the several Divisions would heed the request and forward copies of whatever resolutions might be adopted by their Division Encampments relative to the Ritual or its revision. But again has hope deferred made the heart of the committee sick, for up to the date of this Encampment no Division Commander has been heard from along this line, although the committee has personal knowledge that resolutions were adopted and changes suggested by several of the Division Encampments.

As a result of all this indifference the committee was compelled to go to work according to their own ideas, assisted by whatever they could glean of the general sentiment of the Order by personal contact with representative members, and from expressions of that sentiment heard at former national gatherings.

At the outset the committee realized that there was something more to be accomplished than mere verbal and grammatical revision of the present Ritual. There was a deeper question involved. It is sadly true that our Order has not made progress in a numerical and financial way to the degree naturally to be expected. While the committee does not feel that it is its place to enter into a lengthy discussion of all the causes which have brought about this state of affairs, it does feel that the spirit if not the letter of its commission makes it desirable to look carefully at the question whether the ritualistic features of the Order have or have not contributed to the present conditions.

The ritualistic agitation which culminated in the appointment of this committee may be said to have really taken definite shape about 1890. In that year at the St. Joseph convention, various resolutions were submitted. Massachusetts, at its Encampment of that year,

appointed a committee whose duty was to revise the ritual which had been adopted by the Eighth National Encampment held in 1889, and correct the grammatical errors therein. This committee was requested to report directly to the delegates of the Division to the Ninth National Encampment, and these delegates were instructed to work for the changes indicated by the Division committee. Other Divisions agitated for other things and the pressure was strong enough to bring about the appointment of a Committee on Ritual by the St. Joseph Encampment, to meet with the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and report a form of Ritual which should be harmonious, and correspond with, the new Constitution, Rules and Regulations. All will remember the work of that committee; how it reported a Ritual which was submitted in proof sheets to the Order at large, and which "died in the burning." The agitation for a new form of Ritual did not cease, and at the Cincinnati Encampment of 1893 it was decided that all difficulties could be solved and solved finally by the adoption of a three degree Ritual. Of course, there was objection to such a Ritual, but at Davenport in 1894, the National Encampment adopted a three degree Ritual which is in force today. It is this the present committee was appointed to revise.

After careful consideration of all the points involved, the committee was obliged to conclude that a universal panacea for all ills was not to be found in elaborate ritualistic ceremony. As at present organized, the Order at large is not ready for the task involved in the proper preparation of long ceremonial. Many Camps are too small to carry out the task as it should be carried out, and nothing is more of a disgusting farce than pretentious ritualistic work poorly done; other Camps do not meet often enough to give its members the necessary practice needed for the proper conduct of the ceremonies; still other Camps will not perfect themselves in the degree work, and are content to use the short forms and in some cases have revised the Ritual on their own account to suit themselves. This action brought complaint to the committee from one Camp which, contrary to every other expression of opinion heard, prayed for the abolition of all short forms, on the ground that many visitors to this Camp, which always used the full forms, were unable to understand the ceremonies as exemplified, having never before seen the Ritual fully carried out. There were also objections raised of inability to procure, on account of lack of funds, the necessary paraphernalia to be used in the ceremonies attendant upon the higher degrees.

Taking all things into consideration it was evident that a spirit of discontent was abroad in the land, and the committee was forced to the conclusion that it was necessary that a radical change should be made, and in its judgment the only way to make a fair and successful change was to have the minority yield to the majority, the larger Camps to the smaller ones. No organization is stronger than the weakest of its component parts, and in legislating here we must consider the need of the little country Camp of ten members, rather than the great city Camp of one hundred members. We must have a Ritual that can be used at every meeting in its entirety, and according to which every

recruit taken into the Order, no matter where, can be mustered. Our Ritual must be one with which every officer can thoroughly familiarize himself by a fair amount of application. It must be simple and direct; compact and easily intelligible; clear and concise. The directions must be ample and so minutely set forth that absolute uniformity shall prevail. Condensation must be the watchword.

Formerly the cry was raised that this Order was obliged to compete with the general run of fraternal and social orders, and that to do so it was necessary that the Ritual of the Sons of Veterans should be as elaborate as those of the other Orders. That argument has been recognized and its fallacy thoroughly proven. A moment's thought will show that there can be no competition in the strict sense of the word between the Sons of Veterans and other organizations. We are a close corporation, so to speak; our membership is restricted to one class of men; while that of other Orders is limited to no special class and can draw for recruits upon the wide world itself. Our Order is based upon sentiment primarily; the others upon material advantage. The conditions that apply to them can never, under existing circumstances, apply to us. We must legislate for ourselves and must learn for ourselves what is for our best interests.

The committee has made the revision of the Ritual a subject for much thought. The members of it have realized that it is a question big with meaning for the Order and its material prosperity.

They have felt that the subject must be definitely settled at once, and that the various opinions of members of the Order should be officially made known to the Commandery-in-Chief to the end that the long continued agitation might be brought to an end, and has endeavored to place plainly before the body in a concise manner all the alternative propositions that have presented themselves. And in asking your attention to the result of its labors the committee begs to say that it has endeavored in the brief form of Ritual that it has prepared, to arrange a ceremonial suitable for all sorts and conditions of Camps. It hopes for a full and free discussion of the matter in order that the best interests of the Order we all hold so dear may be not only safely guarded, but furthered to the greatest possible extent.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In accordance with the committee's interpretation of the expressions of opinion of the representatives of the Order in various sections of the country it begs leave to offer the following recommendations:—

1. If the Commandery-in-Chief shall desire that the three degree Ritual be retained, the committee recommends the retention of the same Ritual as is now in use, subject, however, to careful editing by this or some other committee, without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief.

2. If the Commandery-in-Chief shall desire a brief Ritual the committee has prepared one for adoption, which is a condensation of the present three degree Ritual into one of a single degree, with three short changes by the commissioned officers of the Camp, an obligation by the Chaplain and the presentation of the badge to the recruit by the

Captain according to the form now in use. This Ritual contains an instruction that at a suitable point in the muster-in ceremony a scene or scenes from army life during the war *may* be introduced at the option of the Camp, which shall illustrate the three principles of the Order. A few slight changes have been made in the other parts of the Ritual, and the installation of officers of Camps have been shortened and improved and the installing officer furnished with an address to the officers in place of the present long series of charges.

3. In view of the fact that there exists a very strong feeling that ours is not a ritualistic Order, and that instead of providing for the preparation of a new Ritual, all ritualistic work should be practically abolished, which would virtually mean a reorganization of the workings of the Order, this question is respectfully referred to the Commandery-in-Chief, if it desires to take action to this end.

C. D. ROONEY,
W. Y. MORGAN,
C. J. TISDEL,

Committee on Revision of the Ritual.

Chairman Rooney: Commander, I might state that the committee presents three propositions, the adoption of any one of which settles the matter. The committee has found the sentiment very strong for each of these propositions, and would ask that they be considered in order. We ask that you consider first the third proposition, whether the total abolition of Ritual work is desirable.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the third resolution, the total abolition of all Ritual work in the Order.

J. B. Maccabe of Massachusetts: Commander, I second the motion.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The chairman of the committee will read the third proposition.

Chairman Rooney read the third proposition as follows: —

“ In view of the fact that there exists a very strong feeling that ours is not a ritualistic Order, and instead of providing for the preparation of a new Ritual, all ritualistic work should be practically abolished, which would virtually mean a reorganization of the Order, this question is respectfully referred to the Commandery-in-Chief, if it desires to take action to this end.”

Edward K. Gould of Maine: Commander, I move that the motion to adopt the third proposition in the committee's report be laid upon the table.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, what is the second proposition? We would like to have it read again.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The chairman of the committee will read the second proposition contained in the report.

Chairman Rooney read the second proposition as follows: —

“ If the Commandery-in-Chief shall desire a brief Ritual, the committee has prepared one for adoption, which is a condensation of the

present three degree Ritual into one of a single degree, with three short charges by the commissioned officers of the Camp, an obligation by the Chaplain and the presentation of the badge to the recruit by the Captain according to the form now in use. This Ritual contains an instruction that at a suitable point in the muster-in ceremony a scene or scenes from army life during the war *may* be introduced at the option of the Camp, which shall illustrate the three principles of the Order. A few slight changes have been made in the other parts of the Ritual, and the installation of officers of Camps has been shortened and improved and the installing officer furnished with an address to the officers in place of the present long series of charges."

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of proposition No. 2.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I desire to move an amendment to the report, and that is, that where they recommend that the Chaplain administer the obligation that the word "Chaplain" be stricken out and the word "Commander" be put in.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair hears no support to the amendment. The question is on the motion to adopt the second proposition of the report. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

Clark J. Tisdell of Illinois: Commander, in view of the fact that the action just taken by this Encampment settles the report of the committee, I move you, sir, that without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief, the same be continued to edit the proof sheets of the proposed Ritual.

The motion was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother Tisdell's motion is out of order. The question is on the adoption of the report as amended. All those in favor of the adoption of the report of the committee as amended will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

Clark J. Tisdell of Illinois: Now, Commander, I renew my motion. It was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers, you have heard the motion that the same committee be continued to edit the proof sheets of this Ritual. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

Clark J. Tisdell of Illinois: Commander, it is necessary to make an appropriation for the printing and carrying into effect of this Ritual. I do not desire to make any motion to that effect as I am ignorant as to how many it will be necessary to have printed, and the expense, but I desire to call attention to the fact that an appropriation is necessary.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move that the incoming

administration be empowered to promulgate this Ritual, and that it take effect on the 1st day of January, 1899.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

Quartermaster-General Loebenstein: Commander, about furnishing these Rituals to Camps, what Camps shall receive them, and up to what time shall they receive them? I move that the new Ritual, upon its publication, be furnished free of charge to such Camps *only* as may be in good standing at the close of the quarter preceding the date of such publication.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

MEDAL FOR SONS OF VETERANS SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMY.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any other committees to report? If not, what is the further pleasure of this Encampment?

Edward K. Gould of Maine: Commander, we have had many brothers who have honored this Order by their service for their country in this war, and we have seen fit to honor these brothers by placing their names upon the roll of honor. That is all right, but I believe we should go further than that, and that we should place upon the breast of each of these brothers a badge that will be a memento of their service in that war; and I move you that the Commander-in-Chief be authorized to have prepared a medal of honor to be placed upon the price list of supplies and furnished by the Divisions to the soldiers who have served in the United States Army, and the sailors who have served in the navy, in the late Spanish War, who are members of this Order.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: What is the further pleasure of the Encampment? If there is nothing to come up at this time the Adjutant-General has some telegrams which he will read.

The Adjutant-General read the following telegrams and communications: —

SUPERIOR, Sept. 12, 1898.

To the Sons of Veterans in National Encampment Assembled:

The Department of Nebraska, Woman's Relief Corps, extends greetings to your organization, fully realizing that when the great Order to which we stand auxiliary shall have answered to the last roll call, and its mighty phalanx shall have formed on the other shore, upon you will rest the responsibility of perpetuating and honoring the memory of their deeds.

May your Encampment prove successful in every particular and leave with each one a pleasant memory and a hope for future intercourse.

Yours fraternally,

ABBIE A. ADAMS,
Department President.

HASTINGS, Sept. 15, 1898.

To the Sons of Veterans, in National Convention Assembled.

Greetings: On behalf of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, I tender the greetings of five hundred mothers, wives and sisters of the Department of Nebraska, and bid you Godspeed in your noble work.

MRS. ANNA E. MARSHALL,
Dept. Pres. of the Ladies of the Grand Army.

OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 14, 1898.

To the Sons of Veterans in National Encampment Assembled.

Greetings: On behalf of the Garfield Circle of Omaha.

MRS. ELLITT, *President.*

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Sept. 14, 1898.

CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.,*
Omaha, Neb.

Very important business prevents my coming. Greetings to the boys.

NEWTON J. MCGUIRE.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Sept. 13, 1898.

Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans.

Lincoln Camp in session extends greetings to Commandery now assembled.
F. W. PHILO.

MARINETTE, WIS., Sept. 13, 1898.

Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.,
Omaha, Neb.

Regret very much circumstances are such that I am unable to be with you. Wishing the Order much success, I remain yours,

COL. R. M. SMITH.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Sept. 13, 1898.

FRED. E. BOLTON, *Adjutant-General, S. V., U.S.A.*

Alabama and Tennessee Division sends fraternal greetings. Remember our brothers who are defending the flag.

H. T. COOPER, *Commander.*
E. E. CARTER, *Adjutant.*

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Sept. 13, 1898.

CHARLES K. DARLING, *Commander, S. V., U.S.A.*

W. P. Sanders, Camp No. 3, Division Alabama and Tennessee in session sends best wishes for a successful Encampment.

J. T. HENDERSON, *Captain.*

NEW YORK, Sept. 13, 1898.

GEN. CHARLES K. DARLING, *Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Encampment.*
Omaha, Neb.

Greetings: Important business prevents my attending this National Encampment.

M. D. FRIEDMAN.

MILTON, PA., via MT. CARMEL, Sept. 14, 1898.

Gen. CHARLES K. DARLING,
Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Encampment,
Omaha, Neb.

Sincerely regretting inability to attend. Congratulations on year's success.

WILDUN SCOTT,
CHARLES L. JOHN, } *Past Commanders.*
JOHN WIGHTMAN, }

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, under the head of Communications, Brother Charles A. Bookwalter, who is a life member of this Order, asked me to express his regret at not being present at this Encampment, and I also express the regrets of every one of the boys.

SENATOR JOHN M. THURSTON ELECTED TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

F. J. Coates of Nebraska: Commander, under the head of New Business I move that Section 5, Article II., page 36 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, be suspended, and that the Hon. John M. Thurston, a member of Camp No. 1 of this State, be made a life member of the Commandery-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: All those in favor of constituting Hon. John M. Thurston a life member of this body, entitled to a seat and vote in the Commandery-in-Chief, will please rise to their feet. Those opposed will please rise. The motion is agreed to unanimously.

What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

C. D. Rooney of Massachusetts: Commander, I move that the Chair appoint a committee, and that Brother Coates be chairman of that committee, to notify Brother Thurston of the action of this Commandery-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair will appoint Brother Coates, chairman, Colonel Rawitzer, and Past Commander George Wolz, all of Nebraska, the committee for that purpose.

What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

L. E. Merchant of Michigan: Commander, I move that we proceed to the election of officers.

[Cries of "Regular order," "Regular order."]

DETROIT NOMINATED FOR PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The election and installation of officers is the next order of business. No, the Chair is in error. The next order of business is the selection of a place for holding the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I move that the Commandery-in-Chief proceed to fix the place for holding the next annual Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Nominations for place of holding the next Encampment are in order. Junior Vice-Commander Noel will assume command.

Senior Vice-Commander Geo. E. Cogshall: Commander, when I arrived upon the scene of this Encampment I had no idea of asking anything at your hands for the Division of Michigan. Michigan had all she wanted at that time and asked for nothing; but after arriving upon the ground I was approached by a large number of the brothers

present, stating that they were not satisfied with any of the places that had been suggested at this Encampment for holding the next annual meeting. I proceeded at once to the telegraph office and wired Michigan. I have got the responses in my hands at this time from the Wolverine State, and, gentlemen of this convention, it gives me great pleasure at this time to present for your consideration that beautiful and elegant city of the Wolverine State, Detroit, for the next annual Encampment of this body.

I hold here a telegram from a friend of mine in Detroit, who is a member of our Camp. He telegraphs me: "Detroit will take the convention for next year and will give it a hearty reception." That is signed, "William Winchester." I have also in my possession a telegram from the Convention League of Detroit, made up of business men, who contribute toward a fund, which is kept complete all the time, for the purpose of entertaining such bodies as ours, and they telegraph me through their President: "Detroit asks for the next Convention of the Sons of Veterans, and will treat them royally."

I also have a communication from the Mayor of Detroit, William C. Mayberry, as follows: "George E. Cogshall, care of Sons of Veterans Convention. Detroit will be pleased to entertain Sons of Veterans in 1899, and promises a royal reception."

I also have a communication from that old war horse of ours up there, who is known the world over, sometimes for his crankism, but more often for things that he says and does that are good, Governor Pingree. He says: "The Commonwealth of Michigan would be pleased to entertain the Sons of Veterans Encampment at our metropolis, Detroit, in 1899." That is signed "H. S. Pingree, Governor."

Gentlemen of the Convention, it is needless for me to prolong this matter by stating to you the advantages which would attend your going to Detroit. You all know and appreciate them.

RECEPTION OF SENATOR THURSTON.

George F. Wolz of Nebraska: Commander, Your committee have the honor of introducing Hon. John M. Thurston. [Cheers.]

The Presiding Officer (Junior Vice-Commander Noel): I will appoint Past Commander Abbott and Brother Kennedy a committee to escort Senator Thurston to the platform.

Senator Thurston was escorted to the platform by the committee.

Senator Thurston: Commander and Brothers of the Sons of Veterans, I thank you with all my heart for this cordial greeting. I am delighted to see you gathered here in the city of my residence. I missed a great many of you last night at the camp-fire; I judged, although I knew nothing about it, that perhaps the K.O.C., of which I am a humble member, No. 309, had made demands upon you that you could not resist. [Laughter.] I take this opportunity, just for a moment or two, to report to you from the committee that was appointed by your Commander to visit the Grand Army Encampment at Cincinnati, and extend the greetings of this Order to them. Your committee was most kindly received, an audience given us, a generous welcome accorded, and as chairman of the committee I extended your greeting and assured those old dads of ours that the boys would stay by them for

everything they wanted [applause]; and I especially assured them that as long as their sons had the right to speak and vote we would see to it that their memories were cherished and preserved; that the cause for which they battled would never be lost sight of, and that there should be no injustice done to them by the legislation of the Congress of the United States, or by the action of any department of the Government of the United States. [Applause.]

They responded and returned to you their kindest greeting, and wished you Godspeed in this organization, and thanked you most sincerely for the kindness of sending to them a committee such as you did, and for the purpose you did. I was delighted to be at Cincinnati. It was the first Grand Army National Encampment I ever attended. It was the first grand parade of the old veterans I ever saw, and if anything had been needed to recall the love and adoration for the heroic men who fought the battles that kept the flag in the sky and gave us a country, who secured for us the inestimable blessings of liberty, equal rights and justice, that grand spectacle would have done it. [Applause.] We are in the midst of heroic times. Once again the old flag has gone to battle. Once again the American citizen-soldier has proved his valor on the death-swept field. While there has been but a short war, thank God! the boys can stand up today and say to the old heroes of 1861-65 that their glorious example has not been lost, and that the world today declares, and every nation of the world declares, that the American soldiers are the bravest soldiers that ever carried muskets. [Applause.]

All soldiers have been brave since the beginning of time, and while we accord our meed of praise to valor as valor, it is not simply brave deeds that we reverence and respect the most. All soldiers have been brave, especially those of the Caucasian race. They have fought with valor under empires and kings, for conquest and dominion; they have fought in good causes and bad causes, and always, history attests, they have been valorous and chivalrous, and distinguished in battle. But our soldiers, through the whole history of this Republic, have been something more. At the beginning they threw down the gage of battle to the reign of kings, and took up the cause of independent government, "of the people, by the people and for the people." [Applause.] And again, when the bugle called in 1861, and the cry went ringing through the land that the old flag had been fired upon, they took up another holy cause. When they laid down their arms the world respected and revered them; not alone for valor, but because they had fought to establish the liberty of man in this grand and glorious country. [Applause.] And again, when four months' war had swept two great navies from the sea, and when a quarter of a million of soldiers in arms had surrendered to a little army of the American Republic, and the world stood amazed at the most wonderful spectacle of successful war in all history, again civilization has applauded the American soldier, not for bravery alone, but because he carried the dear old flag to battle for humanity's sake, uplifting and ennobling the race. [Applause.]

So today you and I, as sons of the heroes of 1861-65, as brothers of the heroes of 1898, we renew that faith and loyalty to the flag, with

every star shining there, kept there by the muskets of the brave soldiers of the Republic; we renew our loyalty to the cause of independent government by the people; we renew our loyalty to the cause of human liberty, and thank God! we pledge our loyalty for all time to come to see to it that this great nation of the western hemisphere, the mother of republics, stands for the humanity and the uplifting of the human race, in every quarter of the globe. [Applause.] Today the dear old flag means more than it ever meant before. It meant independence at Yorktown. It meant liberty at Appomattox. It meant humanity at Santiago. And today it is respected as it never was respected before. Throughout the world, on land and sea, in both hemispheres, serenely uplifted through the empyrean blue, kissed by the sun of day, wooed by the stars at night, feared by all tyrants, beloved by all mankind, it serenely floats, the unconquered flag of all the great nations of the world.

[Applause, the members of the Commandery-in-Chief rising and singing "America."]

The Presiding Officer (Junior Vice-Commander Noel): Senator Thurston, on behalf of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America, I have the high privilege of saying to you that this Commandery-in-Chief has deemed it a high honor to confer upon you life membership in this body. [Applause.] I will say to you that in times of National emergency this Order has looked to you in public service as the friend of the flag; as the friend of independence, and of liberty and humanity. We have looked upon you within the last year as the able advocate in public life of the great principles for which this Order is founded. I will say to you that we expect and hope that we will see you at every national meeting, that there you may sound the keynote of American patriotism to the Order that is devoted to loyalty and the principles that you have so well defended. We thank you for your presence and courtesy today. [Applause.]

Senator Thurston: Brothers, for this mark of your confidence and affection I sincerely thank you. The honor you have conferred upon me I will wear with a greater pride than was ever worn any jewelled bauble, the gifts of kings. [Applause.] I accept your invitation to attend every National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, and will do so as long as I am able to attend. [Applause.] I pledge to you my best endeavors in every possible way to the advancement of this Order and to the upholding of the principles that this Order represents. [Applause.]

The Senior Vice-Commander assumed command.

DENVER NOMINATED FOR PLACE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any other nominations for place of holding the next Annual Encampment?

Harlan Thomas of Colorado: Brothers, in 1893 it was my privilege to stand on the floor of the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Cincinnati, and there ask each and every one of you to come to Denver the next year. I now ask you again to come and visit us in our beautiful city of Denver. [Applause.]

Charles L. Pierce of California: Commander, I second the nomination of Denver.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any further nominations? If not the Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions. Brother Kennedy and Brother Speelman will act as tellers.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Divisions and the tellers announced the result as follows: —

(Roll call No. 4.)

	DETROIT.	DENVER.
Alabama and Tennessee	2	
California		2
Colorado		5
Connecticut	3	
Indiana	4	
Iowa		5
Illinois	16	
Kansas		10
Kentucky		3
Maine	3	
Maryland		2
Massachusetts	11	
Michigan	3	
Minnesota		3
Missouri		7
Nebraska		11
New Jersey	1	
New York		7
Ohio	7	
Pennsylvania	15	
South Dakota		4
Vermont	1	
Washington		1
Wisconsin		1
Total	66	61

DETROIT CHOSEN.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Detroit having received a majority of the votes cast, is the place of holding the next Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

LOCATION OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move you that we now proceed to fix the location of the Quartermaster-General's department.

J. B. Maccabe of Massachusetts: Commander, I second the motion.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that we already have headquarters of the Quartermaster-General's department located, and that the question cannot come before the house in this way.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The point of order is overruled. The Chair will hold that the Commandery-in-Chief fixed the headquarters of the Quartermaster-General's department in their present location, and has power to change it if they see fit.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, I respectfully appeal from the decision of the Chair.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The decision of the Chair is appealed from. Will the Junior Vice-Commander put the question on the appeal?

The Junior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the question is, Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained? Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. [Cries of "Division." "Division."] Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will please rise and stand until counted. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed will please rise. The Adjutant-General will announce the result.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, the result of the vote is seventy-three in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair, and forty-nine in favor of the appeal.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Seventy-three having voted in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair and forty-nine against it, the decision of the Chair is sustained.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, on behalf of the Division of New York, I ask for a roll-call.

The Division of New York having demanded a call of the roll, and the demand being seconded by members from two other Divisions, the roll-call was ordered, and the Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

The Junior Vice-Commander: The tellers will announce the result of the roll-call.

The tellers announced the result as follows: —

(Roll call No. 5.)

	AYE.	NO.
Alabama and Tennessee	1	1
California	1	1
Colorado		5
Connecticut	3	
Illinois	16	
Indiana	4	
Iowa	4	1
Kansas		10
Kentucky		3
Maine	3	
Maryland	2	
Massachusetts	11	
Michigan	3	
Minnesota	3	
Missouri		7
Nebraska		11
New Jersey	1	
New York		7
Ohio	7	
Pennsylvania	15	
South Dakota	2	2
Vermont	1	
Washington		1
Wisconsin	1	
Total	78	49

The Junior Vice-Commander: The Chair seems to be sustained. The Chair is sustained. The motion is in order.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The motion is to proceed to fix the location of the Quartermaster-General's department. All in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried. Nominations are in order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for nominations.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Kansas was called:

C. Borin of Kansas: Commander, Kansas presents the name of Chicago.

When the Division of Massachusetts was called:

Joseph B. Maccabe of Massachusetts: Commander, the Division of Massachusetts presents the name of Boston.

When the Division of Minnesota was called:

W. H. Adams of Minnesota: Commander, the Division of Minnesota seconds the nomination of Chicago.

When the Division of New York was called:

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, on behalf of the Division of New York I rise to second the nomination of Chicago.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll, and a vote having been taken, the tellers announced the result as follows:—

(Roll call No. 6.)

	CHICAGO.	BOSTON.
Alabama and Tennessee	2	
California	1	1
Colorado	5	
Connecticut		3
Illinois		16
Indiana		4
Iowa	1	4
Kansas	10	
Kentucky	3	
Maine		3
Maryland		2
Massachusetts		11
Michigan		3
Minnesota	3	
Missouri	7	
Nebraska	11	
New Jersey		
New York	7	
Ohio		8
Pennsylvania		15
South Dakota		4
Vermont		1
Washington	1	
Wisconsin	1	
Total	52	75

BOSTON CHOSEN.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Boston having received a majority of all the votes cast at this Encampment, will hereafter be the location of the Department of the Quartermaster-General.

RESIGNATION OF DIVISION COMMANDER COGSHALL RETURNED.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I have a little matter I desire to present to the Commandery-in-Chief, and I am sure every brother here will say that it is right. We came here the other day, and we were sorry that we did not meet our Commander-in-Chief. He is indeed our Darling, and will be for years to come; but in his absence we got a most excellent substitute; we have had a grand presiding officer during this Encampment; but somebody thought he ought to lay aside his honor as Commander of the Michigan Division. Manfully he laid his resignation upon the table and we accepted it. Now I want to move, Junior Vice-Commander, that the motion by which we accepted that resignation be reconsidered, and at the close of this meeting the resignation be returned to Commander Cogshall.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I now move that at the conclusion of this meeting the resignation of George E. Cogshall as Commander of the Michigan Division be returned to him by the Commandery-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF GREETING TO THE G.A.R.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I now move that a committee of three be appointed by the incoming administration, in the usual manner, to greet the National G.A.R. Encampment in 1899, at Philadelphia, when they meet there during that year.

The motion was seconded.

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move to amend the motion to the effect that that committee pay its own expenses.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: With the consent of my second I will accept that amendment.

The motion as amended was agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The next business in order is the election and installation of officers. Nominations for Commander-in-Chief are in order.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the nominating speeches be limited to three minutes, and the seconding speeches to one minute.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant-General will call the roll for nominations for Commander-in-Chief.

M. L. Cormany of Minnesota: Commander, I move that the Commandery take recess until 3 o'clock P.M.

The motion was not seconded.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

When the Division of Alabama and Tennessee was called:

Valentine Gilb, Jr., of Alabama: The Division of Alabama and Tennessee will yield its place to the Division of Illinois.

Wm. T. Church of Illinois: Commander, the prairie State of Illinois in her vast fields, green with the growing food supplies of nations, her busy centers of industry and marts of commerce, has bred bold financiers, sagacious statesmen and invincible soldiers. She produces great men for great occasions. In that crisis of the nation, from the solution of which our Order sprang, she gave to the imperilled Government its matchless chief executive of State and its unconquerable leader of armies.

From her gently rolling prairies, her rich plains and peaceful rivers, there springs a patriotism as true as the yellow product of Colorado's mines, a courage as rugged as New England's hills, and an enterprise that is limited only by the capacity of man. The Illinois Division partakes of the character of the State in which it has jurisdiction. It has ever been ready to meet any demand for workers or leaders; and has always maintained a safe reserve from which to honor any draft of emergency. Not the least memorable in the records of the Order are the names and achievements of men of this Division.

And now while our fighting Commander-in-Chief and thousands of our brothers are serving under the flag our fathers made glorious, while the nation's pulse throbs with wild joy for liberty's latest victories; while the batteries of the Republic salute her simultaneous entrance at the east and west doors of the old world; the Illinois Division, conscious of the proud record to be maintained, hopeful for the expanding future of the Order, believing that she comprehends the needs of the present, and knowing that she deeply reveres the sacred memories of the past,— the Illinois Division presents to you for the office of Commander-in-Chief one of her sons, who like the great men of his State and Division, has been faithful in details, more than efficient in subordinate offices, and who is broad enough to meet and master affairs of commanding dignity and importance.

From his earliest manhood in Camp and Division and in the Commandery-in-Chief, he has been active and able in the counsels of the Order. From a cheerfully conceded leadership in her own Division, Illinois desires him promoted to the command of the Sons of Veterans, assured by his enviable record and his pre-eminent qualifications, that as he has won for her, so will he win for the united Divisions a larger place in the esteem and confidence of the people.

We know what manner of man he is. Fervent loyalty burns in his heart. Fireless energy rules his brain. He has been immersed in that heroic splendor which illuminates the departing days of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is consecrated to the higher duties of citizenship.

Under his command, the Sons of Veterans will this year enter with the Republic upon the accomplishment of that higher destiny which opportunity now offers to both.

In behalf of my Division, I have the honor to place in nomination, Col. Frank L. Shepard, the Prairie Chieftain of Illinois.

When the Division of Missouri was called:

H. J. Kline of Missouri: Commander, Missouri desires to second the nomination of Frank L. Shepard of Illinois.

When the Division of New York was called.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, on behalf of the Division of New York, I second the nomination of Frank L. Shepard.

FRANK L. SHEPARD ELECTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF UNANIMOUSLY.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, there seems to be but one candidate for Commander-in-Chief; I therefore move that unless objection is made, the Adjutant-General cast one vote as expressing the sentiment of this Commandery-in-Chief, for Frank L. Shepard as our Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I take great pleasure in seconding the motion of the distinguished comrade from New York.

The Chair put the question on the motion and it was agreed to unanimously.

The Adjutant-General: Brothers, in accordance with the motion, I hereby cast the entire vote of this Encampment for Frank L. Shepard of Illinois, for Commander-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Frank L. Shepard having received the vote of this Encampment for Commander-in-Chief, I hereby announce him duly elected Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year.

The next business in order will be a roll-call for nominations for the office of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move the appointment of a committee of three to escort the Commander-in-Chief elect to the platform.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander: I will appoint upon that committee, Brother Oberdorf, Brother Jones and Brother Reed.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll for nominations for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

REMARKS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ELECT.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, before the Adjutant proceeds to call the roll, it gives me pleasure to present to you our Commander-in-Chief elect, not only our Commander-in-Chief elect, but a brother who can go through a very spirited contest and come out of it without a single spot upon his character, one who is a thorough gen-

tleman. I take pleasure in introducing to you Gen. Frank L. Shepard, your incoming Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief elect Shepard: Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of this Encampment, it is with a mingling of gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility and care that I receive by your generous act this high honor — the office of Commander-in-Chief of our beloved Order. No one can accept the office of Commander-in-Chief of this splendid body of men, and from these patriotic and pushing workers of the Order, these tried and true brothers, without feeling that the honor carries with it care and work, as well as pleasure and comfort.

The work of the Commander-in-Chief, and the work of our Order, has always seemed to me to be eminently practical as compared with, or distinguished from, the sentimental and theoretical. Brothers, it is the work of building up the Camps; it is the work of making out and forwarding reports; of bringing in worthy and good members to the Order, and of retaining the old, that must make and keep our Order in the front rank; it is upon these details that our success depends.

I will not trespass upon your time at this hour to go into them in detail, in fact, I could not perhaps intelligently, but they must, with the assistance of those who are associated with me, be evolved and promulgated through the coming year, and I trust our efforts will be to advance and encourage the work for the Order. As we pause today, in the light of the history of this eventful year, we must all feel that we are confronted with a peculiar situation in reference to our Order. A situation, however, that seems to me to be of advantage. We are organized to perpetuate the memories and principles for which our fathers fought, and to revere and commemorate their deeds, to uphold our Order, and by upholding it, become better and more intelligent citizens. Since our last meeting another war has been declared and has been fought, and we may safely say has been completely won. If it were not for the fact that the brothers of our Order, — and we can refer to those here present as well as those who are absent in the discharge of duty, — took such a conspicuous part in the legislation preceding this war, and in carrying it on, we might feel some doubt as to the future of our Order; but our brothers, true to the traditions of our fathers and of our Order, did take such a conspicuous part that there can be no doubt about it. They followed the flag of their country; they went to a strange land, to a strange people, and carried with them inspiration, hope and high resolve; and their coming back to join with us in this work seems to me an inspiration. They have added lustre to the flag, and their record will enable us to do better work for the Order, inspire us with greater confidence in its principles, with a more fervent love of liberty and a higher sense of the privilege of citizenship in our country.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I trust one year hence when I lay down the office you have conferred upon me, that I will have so discharged the covenant of my obligation that I will have the honor of receiving from you then the assurance that I have kept the faith. [Applause.]

GEO. E. COX ELECTED SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for nominations for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Connecticut was called:

J. D. Hotchkiss of Connecticut: Commander, the Division of Connecticut yields to the Division of Maine.

E. K. Gould of Maine: Commander, on behalf of the Division of Maine I desire to present the name of Brother George E. Cox of Connecticut, for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any other nominations? If not, nominations will be closed.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of the Encampment for George E. Cox for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

W. P. Feder of Kansas: Commander, I second the motion.

The Senior Vice-Commander put the question on the motion, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother George E. Cox of Connecticut having received the vote of the Encampment for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, I hereby declare him duly elected Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year. Nominations for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief are now in order. The Adjutant will call the roll of Divisions.

Z. C. GREEN ELECTED JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

When the Division of Nebraska was called:

A. H. Rawitzer of Nebraska: Commander, the Division of Nebraska desires to present the name of Past Commander F. J. Coates of the Nebraska Division, for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

When the Division of South Dakota was called:

W. A. Morris of South Dakota: Commander, the Division of South Dakota presents the name of Past Division Commander Z. C. Green for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll.

The Senior Vice-Commander: There being no other nominations, the Commandery-in-Chief will proceed to ballot.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll, when the Division of Nebraska was reached:

A. H. Rawitzer of Nebraska: Commander, I desire to withdraw the name of Frank J. Coates, and cast the vote of the Nebraska delegation for Colonel Green of Dakota. Eleven votes for Green.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll, and the tellers announced the result as follows: —

(Roll call No. 7.)

	COATES.	GREEN.
Alabama and Tennessee	2	
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut		3
Illinois		16
Indiana		4
Iowa	1	3
Kansas	10	
Kentucky	3	
Maine		3
Maryland	2	
Massachusetts		11
Michigan	2	1
Minnesota		2
Missouri		6
Nebraska		11
New Jersey		
New York		6
Ohio		8
Pennsylvania		15
South Dakota		4
Vermont		1
Washington		1
Wisconsin		1
Total	20	96

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother Green having received ninety-six votes, a majority of the votes of this Encampment, he is hereby declared duly elected Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, for the ensuing year. The Adjutant-General will now call the roll of Divisions for nominations for Quartermaster-General.

FRED E. BOLTON ELECTED QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

When the Division of Kansas was called:

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Commander, on behalf of the Division of Kansas I desire to present the name of Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts, for Quartermaster-General.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Division I desire to second the nomination of my esteemed and worthy friend from Massachusetts, Fred E. Bolton.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Are there any further nominations for Quartermaster-General? If not the Adjutant-General will call the roll and Division Commanders will announce the vote in their Divisions.

Wm. E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move that the rules be suspended and the Assistant Adjutant-General be directed to cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Brother Fred E. Bolton for Quartermaster-General.

The motion was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander put the question on the motion, and it was agreed to unanimously.

The Assistant Adjutant-General: Brothers, in accordance with the vote just taken I now cast the entire vote of this Encampment for Brother Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts, for Quartermaster-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brother Fred E. Bolton having received the vote of this Encampment for Quartermaster-General, I hereby declare him elected Quartermaster-General of the Order for the ensuing term.

The next business in order is nominations for Council-in-Chief. The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Divisions, and the following brothers were placed in nomination: —

C. L. Pierce of California.
James D. Rowen of Iowa.
J. E. Haycraft of Minnesota.
W. Y. Morgan of Kansas.
F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin.
E. H. Hansford of Kentucky.
H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania.

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Commander, I desire to withdraw my name, if holding a commission as Camp Captain renders me ineligible as a member of the Council-in-Chief.

Geo. B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I would ask for a ruling by the Chair on the question of the eligibility of candidates who are now holding commissions in their Camps or Divisions, whether they can also hold, at the same time, a position in the Commandery-in-Chief.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The Chair is of the opinion that he cannot hold two commissions. I would have to hold that way, in the light of my own case, which has been before you. I would have to say that this Commandery-in-Chief has ruled that holding a commission in a Camp or Division would render a brother ineligible to hold an office in the Commandery-in-Chief. I think the quickest way out of this would be for the brothers who hold commissions, who have been nominated for the Council-in-Chief, to indicate which office they would prefer to hold.

Geo. B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, simply to get a decision by the Commandery-in-Chief on this question, I appeal from the decision of the Chair.

The appeal was seconded.

The Senior Vice-Commander: The decision of the Chair is appealed from. The Junior Vice-Commander will put the question on the appeal.

The Junior Vice-Commander: Brothers, the question is, shall the decision of the Chair be sustained. Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. [Cries of "Division," "Division."]

Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will please

rise to their feet and stand until counted. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed will now rise.

The Adjutant-General reported sixty votes in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair, and fifty in favor of sustaining the appeal.

The Junior Vice-Commander: The decision of the Chair is sustained.

Chas. L. Pierce of California: Commander, I desire to withdraw my name.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, New York under the existing conditions, desires to withdraw the name of Colonel Hansford of Kentucky.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll, and the tellers reported the result as follows:—

Roll call No. 8.	Hammer	Rowen	Haycraft	Morgan	McDowell
Alabama and Tennessee.....	1		1		1
California	2	2			2
Colorado	5		5		5
Connecticut	3	3	3		
Illinois	15	15	15		
Indiana	4	4	4		
Iowa	4	4			4
Kansas	10		10		10
Kentucky	3		3		3
Maine	3	3	3		
Maryland.....					
Massachusetts	10	11	11	1	
Michigan	3	3			3
Minnesota	4		4		4
Missouri	7		7		7
Nebraska.....	11		11		11
New Jersey	1		1	1	
New York.....		7	7		7
Ohio	8	8		8	
Pennsylvania	14	14	14		
South Dakota.....	4	4	4		
Vermont					
Washington	1		1		1
Wisconsin	1	1	1		
Totals.....	114	79	105	10	58

The Senior Vice-Commander: Brothers H. H. Hammer, J. E. Haycraft and J. D. Rowen having received a majority of the votes of the Encampment, are hereby declared the three members of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Harlan Thomas of Colorado: Commander, the Committee on Resolutions has a couple of additional resolutions that it desires to

report at this time. They are the customary resolutions of thanks and are as follows : —

Resolved, That the thanks of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., are hereby tendered to the Division of Nebraska, and the local Camps of that Division, who through their committee of arrangements have contributed to the comfort of its members and helped to expedite the business of this session.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Commandery are hereby tendered to the Press of Omaha, the Associated Press, the railroads entering Omaha, and the Trans-Mississippi Exposition for the favors granted and courtesies extended to this Encampment.

The Senior Vice-Commander : If there is no objection the resolution will be considered adopted as read. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered. What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

H. V. Speelman of Ohio : Commander, I move that we proceed to the installation of officers.

H. J. Kline of Missouri : Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander : I will ask Past Commander-in-Chief Bundy of Ohio to take the Chair and install the Commandery-in-Chief officers.

PRESENTATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S BADGE

Installing Officer, Wm. E. Bundy : Commander, I will ask Brother Gould, Judge Advocate-General on the staff of Commander-in-Chief Darling, to kindly come forward and receive on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief the badge that is always presented. It will be presented by Colonel Kline of Missouri.

H. J. Kline of Missouri : Brother Gould, this proceeding is a little out of order, but it is due to the demands of our country, and we will try to make the best of it. As you are all aware this Encampment has placed on record a vote of confidence in Commander-in-Chief Darling, whose term expires with the installation now about to begin. It was done in no half-hearted way. I am confident that it was an honest expression. We ask you, Brother Gould, to say to Brother Darling that we honor him as much for his loyalty to the Sons of Veterans as we do for the loyalty he has demonstrated towards his country. Say to him we have missed his kindly presence, and we hope God's providence will spare him to again be with his brothers in the Order; and say to him that we believe that this Order has never had a Commander-in-Chief who has been more honest in the discharge of his duties. Give him renewed assurance of our love and esteem, and this beautiful jewel, which is emblematic of his past rank.

E. K. Gould of Maine : Brother Kline and brothers of the Encampment, I am sure you share with me the profound regret that the man who so faithfully and so intelligently discharged the duties of the high office to which you called him a year ago, is not here in person to receive this crowning honor at your hands. I am sure his heart goes out to us on this occasion with yearning, but true to the patriotic principles for which this Order has been called into existence, true to the

loyalty that had been taught him at his fireside in Vermont, true to all the instincts of humanity, to all the splendid characteristics that go to make up that man you call Charles K. Darling, he has fulfilled the duties of this office in a manner that has received the commendation of the intelligent members, and they are all intelligent in this supreme body of our Order. Gentlemen, I regret that one so humble as myself is obliged to stand in the shoes of Charles K. Darling, and respond for the gift that is now bestowed upon him. A loyal man, a man who was willing to sacrifice every interest; to leave personal comfort behind, to leave lucrative employment, that the grand old flag of his father might continue to wave as the flag of liberty and humanity. We honor him today as the representative volunteer soldier of the Sons of Veterans. We honor him today because he stands for that great body of sons who have shouldered their muskets and added honor and glory to the history of this country.

Gentlemen, I am sure you do not want to be detained by a long speech. Let me say briefly that he will appreciate this gift; his honorable, generous nature will respond to this act of kindness on your part. He will treasure it as a bright oasis in the desert of his hard labor, as one of the dearest things to be cherished in the long life of usefulness which I hope is before him. Gentlemen, again I thank you, in his behalf, for this magnificent gift.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

Installing Officer Bundy: In the absence of the Inspector-General, I will appoint Brother O'Brien of Nebraska Inspector-General *pro tem*. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the officers elect, and they will present themselves at the altar.

The newly elected officers, with the exception of the Commander-in-Chief elect, were installed in due form, and escorted to their several stations.

Installing Officer Bundy: The Commander-in-Chief elect will please announce his staff.

Commander-in-Chief elect Shepard: The staff will be appointed and the names promulgated by General Order.

Commander-in-Chief elect Shepard was then duly installed and assumed command.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Geo. B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, if there is nothing further before the Encampment, I move that we approve the minutes of this meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief as taken down by the stenographer, without reading.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, if there is no further business, I move that this Encampment do now adjourn *sine die*.

A. W. Jones of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to, and the Encampment was closed in due form.

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 17, 1898.

The foregoing is a true and correct record and report of the proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., held in Creighton Hall, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 12, 13 and 14, A.D. 1898, as recorded by the official stenographer.

GEORGE E. COGSHALL,
Past Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief

ATTEST:
FRED E. BOLTON,
Past Adjutant-General.

RECORD OF ROLL CALLS.

Seventeenth Annual Encampment
OF THE
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, S. V., U. S. A.

The following shows those members of the Encampment answering roll calls: —

P, present; — A, absent; — * Substitute Delegates.

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF OFFICERS.			
	1	2	3
Commander-in-Chief, Charles K. Darling.....	†		
Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, George E. Cogshall.....	P	P	P
Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, James W. Noel.....	P	P	P
Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton.....	P	P	P
Quartermaster-General, R. Loebenstein.....	P	P	P
Inspector-General, J. Frank Durston.....	P	P	P
Judge Advocate-General, Edward K. Gould.....	P	P	P
Surgeon-General, Dr. Dan. S. Gardner.....	P	P	P
Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. Harry L. Veazey.....	A	A	A
Council-in-Chief, { H. H. Hammer.....	P	P	P
{ C. Borin.....	P	P	P
{ J. E. Haycraft.....	P	P	P
PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.			
A. P. Davis.....	A	A	A
George B. Abbott.....	P	P	P
Joseph B. Maccabe.....		P	P
William E. Bundy.....	P	P	P
William H. Russell.....	P	P	P
PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDER.			
R. M. J. Reed.....	P	P	P
ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.			
Past Division Commanders, { V. Gilb, Jr.	P	P	P
{ L. W. Friedman	P	P	P
CALIFORNIA AND H.I.			
Commander, Charles L. Pierce.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, E. Z. Brokan.....	P	P	P
COLORADO.			
Commander, Paul H. Limbach.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { L. W. Kennedy	P	P	P
{ Harlan Thomas	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Joseph Powell.....	P	A	P
Alternate, Samuel Reiss.....	P	P	A
CONNECTICUT.			
Past Division Commander, George E. Cox.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. D. Hotchkiss.....	P	P	P
Alternate, George W. Fletcher.....	P	P	P

† Absent in the military service at Porto Rico.

		1	2	3
ILLINOIS.				
Commander, William T. Church		P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	F. McCrillis	P	P	P
	C. T. Orner		P	P
	George B. Stadden	P	P	P
	George H. Hurlburt	P	P	P
	C. G. Marsh	P	P	P
	Frank L. Shepard	P	P	P
	William G. Dustin	P	P	P
	John R. Neeley	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Isaac Cutter		P	P	P
Delegates, {	James Lidders	P	P	P
	R. D. Houlihan	P	P	P
	P. A. Durant	P	P	P
	Clark J. Tisdell *	P	P	P
INDIANA.				
Delegates, {	L. F. Shultz	A	P	P
	S. C. Tipton *	A	P	P
	H. D. P. Cline *	A	P	P
IOWA.				
Commander, W. W. Bisby		P	P	P
Past Division Commander, James D. Rowen		A	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. H. York *		A	P	P
Delegates, {	W. H. Miller	P	A	A
	R. Shaw Van	A	A	P
	J. B. Lyons *	A	A	P
KANSAS.				
Commander, John Redmond		P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	W. Y. Morgan	P	P	P
	Grant W. Harrington	P	P	P
	W. P. Feder	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, H. A. Russell *				P
Delegates, {	John F. Hauber	P	P	P
	Charles Richards *	P	P	P
	L. B. Price *	P	P	P
KENTUCKY.				
Commander, E. H. Hausford		P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. M. Volmer *		P	A	A
Delegates, Owen T. Watts		P	P	A
MAINE.				
Commander, George E. Leighton		P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, James S. Cooper		P	P	P
MARYLAND.				
Past Division Commander, E. R. Campbell		P	P	P
Alternate, Charles S. Davis		P	P	P
MASSACHUSETTS.				
Commander, Leonard C. Couch		P	P	P
Past Division Commander, D. F. Goulding		P	A	P
Delegate-at-Large, George N. Howard		P	P	P
Delegates, {	Thomas J. Hannon	P	P	P
	J. H. Fayerweather	P	P	P
	B. F. Cook	P	P	A
	Tilton S. Bell	P	P	P
	Charles D. Rooney	P	P	P
	P. L. Parker	P	P	P
	John F. Hargraves *	P	P	P

	1	2	3
MICHIGAN.			
Past Division Commander, H. E. Cowdin.....	P	P	P
Delegate, L. E. Merchant.....	P	P	P
MINNESOTA.			
Commander, M. L. Cormany.....		P	P
Delegate-at-Large, W. H. Adams*.....		P	P
Delegate, C. N. Rawitzer.....		P	P
MISSOURI.			
Commander, J. W. S. Dillon.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { H. J. Kline	A	P	P
Fred E. Ernst	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, S. G. Denny.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { J. O. Damm	P	P	P
H. H. Bronson.....	P	P	P
NEBRASKA.			
Commander, A. H. Rawitzer.....	A	P	P
{ F. J. Coates	P	P	P
F. P. Corrick	P	P	P
P. A. Barrows	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { George F. Wolz	P	P	P
F. A. Agnew.....	P	P	P
J. C. Elliot.....	A	P	P
M. P. O'Brien.....	A	A	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. Howard Heine.....	A	P	P
Delegate, J. A. Beck	P	P	P
NEW JERSEY.			
Commander, James M. Mathews.....	P	P	P
NEW YORK.			
Commander, E. W. Estes.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. S. Oberdorf.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Joseph R. Swain	P	P	P
Delegates, { E. C. Parkinson	P	P	P
W. A. Personius	P	P	P
H. H. Parker	P	P	P
OHIO.			
Commander, Edward H. Archer.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, A. W. Jones.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, H. V. Speelman	P	P	P
Delegates, { W. E. Baldwin.....	P	P	P
A. B. Maynard	P	P	P
J. S. Tyler*.....	A	P	A
H. A. Green*	A	P	A
PENNSYLVANIA.			
Commander, A. S. Moulthrop.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Robert E. Hopkins.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, T. C. Harter	P	P	P
{ F. W. Briggs	P	P	P
Walter E. Ross*.....	P	P	P
George W. Dubbs*.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { B. E. Hover*	P	P	P
W. F. Fertig*.....	P	P	P
John Carl, Jr*	P	P	P
J. W. Bailey*	P	P	P
B. F. Hollenbach*	P	P	P
Alternate, A S. Rhodes	P	P	P

	1	2	3
SOUTH DAKOTA.			
Commander, W. A. Morris	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Z. C. Green	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Miles E. North	P	P	P
Delegate, E. O. Eddy *	P	P	P
VERMONT.			
Delegate, C. W. Staples	P	P	P
WASHINGTON.			
Delegate-at-Large, E. G. Kreider	P	P	P
WISCONSIN.			
Delegate-at-Large, F. H. B. McDowell	P	P	P
Delegate, O. G. Braband *	P	P	P

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